

# THE PINK

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## West Brom v Bournemouth

Report on page 5

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## Best for non league



Ten pages of reports, news and views inside

# SAINTS' FESTIVE WOE

## Poch inflicts defeat

**SAINTS** have plenty to ponder over Christmas as they go into the festive period without a win in six matches after losing 2-0 to Tottenham at St Mary's.

The defeat, a fifth in the last six, punctured only by a disappointing home draw to bottom of the table Aston Villa, was inflicted by two goals in just three minutes late in the first half from Harry Kane and Delle Alli, who were the grateful recipients of lacklustre Saints defending.

TURN TO PAGES 3&4



Paulo Gazzaniga and Cedric Soares look on in horror as Dele Alli wheels away to celebrate Tottenham's second goal as they beat Saints 2-0 at St Mary's

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# SOUTHAMPTON 0 TOTTENHAM 2



Mauricio Pochettino watches on as Steven Davis gets the ball past Mousa Dembele as the Spurs boss beat his former club 2-0 at St Mary's

## Saints slump to another defeat

**SAINTS** have plenty to ponder over Christmas as they go into the festive period without a win in six matches after losing 2-0 to Tottenham at St Mary's.

The defeat, a fifth in the last six, punctured only by a disappointing home draw to bottom of the table Aston Villa, was inflicted by two goals in the space of just three minutes late in the first half, *writes Adam Leitch*.

Harry Kane and Delle Alli were the grateful recipients of some lacklustre Saints defending as Mauricio Pochettino kept his unbeaten run against his former club going.

Saints now really need a win when they return to action on Boxing Day, but it will be tough as they host title contenders Arsenal.

There was a fairly open start to the game with both sides keen to get on the front foot and attack.

It was Saints who threatened first with Steven Davis chipping a wonderful pass into the path of Sadio Mane whose half volley back across goal from a tight angle was deflected

### TEAM NEWS

● Ronald Koeman reverted to a back four for the visit of Tottenham, meaning Maya Yoshida was one of three players left out from the side defeated at Crystal Palace.

● Oriol Romeu and Shane Long also made way as Saints searched for a first win in five.

● Jordy Clasie came into midfield to partner Victor Wanyama with Dusan Tadic and Graziano Pelle returning to lead the attack.

● Maarten Stekelenburg was still missing with a toe injury so Paulo Gazzaniga continued in goal.

● SAINTS: Gazzaniga, Cedric, Fonte, van Dijk, Bertrand, Wanyama Clasie, Mane, S Davis, Tadic, Pelle.

● Subs: K Davis, Yoshida, Targett, Romeu, Ward-Prowse, Juanmi, Long.

● TOTTENHAM: Lloris, Walker, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Davies, Dembele, Dier, Lamela, Alli, Eriksen, Kane.

● Subs: Worm, Wimmer, Bentaleb, Chadli, Carroll, Winks, Son.

over by Toby Alderweireld.

Hugo Lloris was forced into a fantastic save on eight minutes to prevent Mane from giving Saints the lead.

Ryan Bertrand's forceful clearing header down the left found Dusan Tadic, who squared to Mane just inside the area. He guided a low first time shot on target but Llo-

ris did brilliantly to get down to his right to make the stop.

Up the other end Tottenham tried to make something happen with Christian Eriksen flashing a driven effort across goal and wide of the far post.

Continued on page four

## Koeman bemoans Saints' big mistakes

RONALD Koeman has pointed the blame at his players, calling them "too naive" in Saints' 2-0 defeat to Tottenham at St Mary's this afternoon in the Premier League.

In a three minute spell just before half-time Harry Kane and Dele Alli put ex-Saints manager Mauricio Pochettino's side 2-0 up, writes Peter Howard.

Koeman's side started brightly, with Sadio Mane having the best of the chances, but the manager slammed his side's defending that saw them extend their winless run to six games in all competitions.

"We made some unbelievable mistakes," he said.

"If you watch the first goal, what happened, it's like amateurs because it's a situation because we lost the ball in midfield, but still enough defenders behind.

"But too naive, three against one, three defenders of Southampton against Kane and still it's one against one with the goalkeeper and that's unbelievable because these are details who decide a final result because in three minutes it was over.

"Of course we did everything second half in the last two minutes we got some good chances. We need to change our mentality.

"We need to work different I think now in the situation after many defeats in the season how we have to react and, one of course, is believe in the way how we play and how we try to play football.

"But we need to be more, we need a more killing mentality because it's unacceptable how they score the first goal."

Alli netted Spurs' second two minutes before the break and Koeman saw it as a mix up between the players.

"It's a misunderstanding and maybe that misunderstanding came out of the first goal and of course Ryan Bertrand like to press on the midfield. He lost the battle, but we're looking at losing too many battles.

"We need a better understanding defensive-wise and Cedric (Soares). I think Cedric is playing offside in the box and we had no pressure to the ball. Too easy, so easy.

"But it starts by the 1-0 because that makes the difference. Of course by 1-0 down maybe in the second half you can do more or maybe you have more belief to come back in the game.

"2-0 down at half-time it was so difficult."



Ronald Koeman watches on

**HAVE YOUR SAY ON SAINTS - COMMENT ONLINE AT [www.dailyecho.co.uk](http://www.dailyecho.co.uk)**



# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT

# Christmas cheer on hold at Saints

From previous page

Mane was causing Spurs plenty of problems with Koeman employing him in a central role. He forced Jan Vertonghen into a superb sliding tackle to block his shot on 25 minutes as Saints continued to slightly edge the match.

Alderweireld tried an audacious looping header from Kyle Walker's right wing cross but from the edge of the area it was never likely to threaten Paulo Gazzaniga and duly went over the bar.

Gazzaniga was forced into action for the first time on 36 minutes as Harry Kane was played into the area by a neat one-two.

The Spurs striker tried a shot from a fairly tight angle on the right which was on target but Gazzaniga got down to block at his near post and was grateful there was nobody around to benefit as it bounced off his body.

There was nothing he could do though as Spurs took the lead on 40 minutes.

Saints lost the ball in an attacking position and moments later Jose Fonte was just beaten to it by Delle Alli, though took out the man on the halfway line for which he was later booked, and it set Kane away.

Saints were all over the place as the striker charged at them, with Cedric Soares and Virgil van Dijk missing chances to stop him.

Soon he was through one-on-one with the exposed Gazzaniga, and Kane opened up his body to finish into the far corner for 1-0.

It got even worse as Spurs doubled their lead three minutes later, with some more awful play from Saints.

Again Saints gave the ball away on the attack and were badly caught out as Spurs got away with a four on five attack.

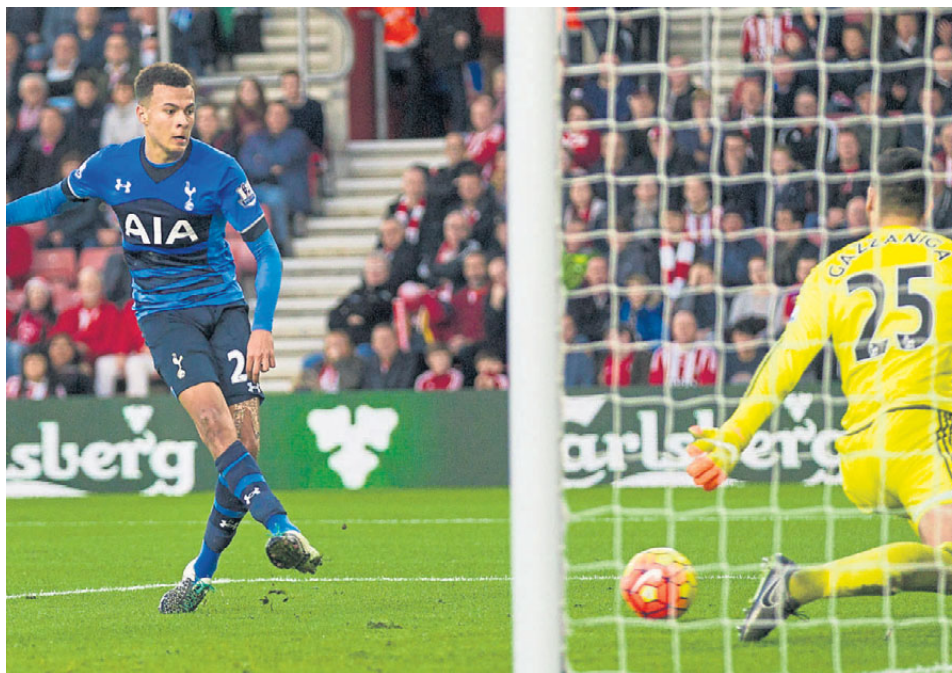
Walker pushed on down the right and crossed low between goalkeeper and defence with Alli getting in behind Cedric at the far post to have the time to control and finish low past Gazzaniga from inside the six yard box and it was 2-0.

Saints really needed a goal early in the second period to try and get themselves a way back into the game.

Graziano Pelle tried to make it happen nine minutes after the restart with a curling right footed effort from just outside the area but Lloris was able to collect it.

The truth was though that Spurs were looking pretty comfortable on the whole, knowing they didn't need to over commit going forward.

Koeman made a double change top try and make something happen on 64 minutes with Shane Long and



Tottenham's Dele Alli scores his side's second goal of the game at St Mary's



Dejected Saints players as they contemplate defeat to Spurs. Pic: Stuart Martin

Juanmi replacing Steven Davis and Tadic.

Long went to play up front with Pelle with Mane moving to the right wing and Juanmi to the left in an attacking 4-4-2 formation.

After Spurs appealed in vain that Clasie had brought down Erik Lamela when he was bursting towards goal, Alli went in the book for a very late challenge on Juanmi.

The major problem for Saints was that throughout the second period they had not looked at all like scoring, and time was quickly running

away.

Saints made their final substitution on 78 minutes with James Ward-Prowse coming on for Clasie. Spurs responded with Tom Carroll replacing Alli.

Tottenham seemed in total control and Eriksen tried to wrap up the three points with a low drive from the edge of the box but it was straight at Gazzaniga.

The keeper was grateful for another routine save when Spurs threatened again with Lamela getting to the right by-line and cutting back

to Carroll who could only make a weak contact when it seemed he might score.

Spurs ran down the clock with Nacer Chadli coming on for Eriksen and Son Heung-Min replacing Kane.

Saints nearly pulled one back in stoppage time as Pelle missed a cross from the left allowing the ball to run to Ward-Prowse but his first time side footed finish from ten yards out was superbly saved down to his left by Lloris as Spurs confirmed the win.

## Trio up for knockout

THREE Barclays Premier League clubs this week learned their European opponents for the first knockout stage of the Champions League.

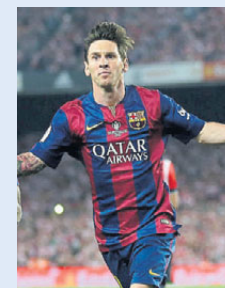
**ARSENAL v BARCELONA**  
Arsene Wenger's side have again paid the price for not topping their group by drawing the holders. The Gunners have not made it past the round of 16 for the past five years and come up against the Catalans' fearsome attacking triumvirate. In Lionel Messi, Neymar and Luis Suarez, the Luis Enrique's side have the most potent strike-force on the continent, with only the former Liverpool man not on the three-man shortlist for the Ballon D'Or. Their defence shipped just four goals in getting out of Group E in top spot, amassing 14 points. Barcelona won their last meeting at this stage in 2011 - Messi scoring all the goals in a 4-1 home leg win - and the Primera Division leaders also beat Arsenal in the 2006 final.

## CHELSEA v PARIS ST GERMAIN

Jose Mourinho will lead his struggling side into a game against Ligue 1's dominant outfit for a third successive year, having lost in extra-time in the round of 16 last season. The year before, the Blues won by away goals to reach the semi-finals, but Laurent Blanc's side have only lost once all season and that was at Real Madrid. They top Ligue 1 by 17 points already. Zlatan Ibrahimovic remains the obvious danger man and he has already notched 14 times this season.

## MANCHESTER CITY v DYNAMO KIEV

On paper this is by far the easiest task for the trio of English clubs left in the Champions League, but Sergei Rebrov will be hoping his side can upset the odds. Second in the Ukrainian league, Kiev finished runners-up to Chelsea in Group G, but a win at Porto shows they are not to be taken lightly.



Lionel Messi scored four against Arsenal in 2011



## WEST BROM 1 BOURNEMOUTH 2

# Cherries riding high after Daniels seals dramatic win

**CHARLIE Daniels' late penalty gave in-form Bournemouth a third successive Premier League win as they triumphed 2-1 at nine-man West Brom.**

The defender fired in after Dan Gosling had been brought down by Darren Fletcher with just three minutes left.

Gareth McAuley looked to have rescued a point for the Baggies when he cancelled out Adam Smith's second-half opener.

Albion had to play almost an hour with ten men after James McClean was dismissed for a wild lunge at Smith as he looked for revenge following a tackle between the pair just ten seconds before.

And Salmon Rondon was sent off in injury time after an altercation with Gosling to complete the late drama.

Defeat was Tony Pulis' 100th as a Premier League manager and ended the Baggies' four-match unbeaten run. It also increased the Baggies' home woes as only Aston Villa (two) have won fewer points at home than Albion (eight).

Bournemouth bossed the first half without breaking down a stubborn and organised West Brom side who offered little.

And the game was drifting towards half-time until McClean's rush of blood brought things to the boil.

The midfielder had clashed with Smith just 10 seconds earlier after a 50-50 challenge left the Baggies man in a heap and, angered he did not get a foul, McClean dished out revenge.

He chased the ball as Matt Ritchie broke away and found Smith before hacking down the Cherries man to deservedly see red and leave Albion with a massive task.

The Cherries had already had 64 per cent of the possession in the first half and they ramped up the pressure on the Baggies towards the break.

Ritchie should have scored instead of planting a six-yard header wide under pressure from Chris Brunt - and they almost paid for the miss three minutes after the break.

Craig Dawson launched a long ball to Rondon, who controlled it well but saw his fierce half-volley turned over by Artur Boruc.

But the visitors deservedly took the lead on 52 minutes as Smith continued to be public enemy number one at The Hawthorns.

The midfielder was given far too much time to cut in from the right and he arrowed a low 20-yard drive into the bottom corner.

With 10 men Albion offered little immediate resistance and Stanislas



Charlie Daniels slots home from the penalty spot to give Bournemouth a dramatic win at West Brom



Bournemouth celebrate a third Premier League win in a row thanks to a last gasp winner

hit the outside of the post 15 minutes later.

The Cherries looked comfortable but needed a brilliant header from Steve Cook to stop Stephane Sessegnon levelling.

Rickie Lambert was introduced with 15 minutes left as Saido Berahino remained on the bench until

injury time to underline how far he remains out of Pulis' current plans.

The Baggies levelled out of the blue with 11 minutes remaining when McAuley glanced Craig Gardner's corner across goal and in off the far post from six yards.

The Cherries paid the price for not leaving a man on the line - but won it

with three minutes left.

Gosling was felled in a tangle of legs by Fletcher as he burst into the box to allow Daniels to rifle in the spot-kick off the bar.

And Rondon was dismissed in stoppage time to compound Albion's woes after an off the ball clash with Gosling.

## Klopp set for return 'home'

### EUROPA LEAGUE FIRST KNOCKOUT PHASE PREVIEWS

#### LIVERPOOL v AUGSBURG

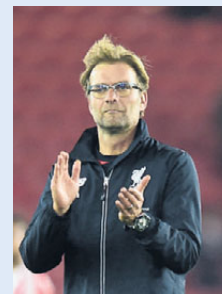
A swift return to Germany awaits Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp as the Reds face European new boys Augsburg. Markus Weinzierl's side finished fifth in the Bundesliga last term to reach continental competition for the first time and they came through Group F despite losing their opening two fixtures. Two former Premier League players feature in their squad in ex-Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger and Ji Dong-won, formerly of Sunderland, while they lost Baba Rahman to Chelsea over the summer. Their main goal threat comes from Paraguay international Raul Bobadilla.

#### MANCHESTER UNITED v FC MIDTJYLLAND

United's reward for dropping out of the Champions League is a tie with reigning Danish Superliga champions Midtjylland, who are based in the town of Herning. Formed in 1999, the year United won their famous treble of Premier League, Champions League and FA Cup, they beat Saints in a qualifier in August on their way to reaching the Europa League group stage for the first time. They finished second in Group D behind Napoli.

#### TOTTENHAM v FIORENTINA

Spurs will be feeling a sense of deja vu as they face the same opponents they played at the this stage of the competition last season. And Mauricio Pochettino's side were eliminated as they were beaten 2-0 in Florence. Paulo Sousa has his side up to second in Serie A, but they were beaten to top spot in Group I by Basle. Their top scorer is former Blackburn striker Nikola Kalinic.



Jurgen Klopp

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# EASTLEIGH 3 KIDDERMINSTER HARRIERS 1

## Kid's play for Eastleigh as Todd leads them up to third

**THEY made it more difficult than it needed to be, but Eastleigh maintained their fabulous record under manager Chris Todd with a 3-1 win over rock-bottom Kidderminster Harriers at the Silverlake Stadium.**

Incredibly it was their 13th victory from 16 league and cup outings since Todd replaced Richard Hill at the Silverlake Stadium helm in late September and lifts them to third in the Vanarama National League table.

The Spitfires recalled the attacking prowess of Jack Midson and Jai Reason to face a suffering Harriers side who can literally count their wins this calendar year on the fingers of one hand, *writes Wendy Gee.*

Andy Drury and Paul Reid were both fit to start after limping out of the Trophy tie at Aldershot last weekend, while Will Evans returned to the heart of defence following a groin injury.

Kidderminster looked lively early on, forcing a couple of early corners, but it was Eastleigh who fashioned the first threat when Reason picked out the run of top scorer James Constable. Although confronted by the sizeable figure of centre-back Kyle Howkins, the Spitfires' No9 managed to dig out a shot which went just over.

That heralded a spell of attractive, passing football from the Spitfires which so nearly came to fruition on 21 minutes following neat play down the left. Full-back Michael Green ventured into the area and picked out Midson who drew a great, point-blank stop by goalkeeper Dean Snedker at his near post.

Seven minutes later Green himself had a clear sight of the Harriers' goal, skipping his way to the edge of the box, but his exuberance got the better of him and he fired well off target.

Kidderminster remained full of running and, with the busy, little figure of on-loan AFC Bournemouth attacker Ben Whitfield making a constant nuisance of himself, the Eastleigh defence couldn't afford to switch off.

They did just that with a loose ball from Joe Partington on 34 minutes, but Eastleigh mopped up the danger as Whitfield and Gurjit Singh attempted to cash in.

On 39 minutes Constable delivered a dangerous right-wing cross towards Midson at the near post which Harriers managed to scrape away for a corner.

But just when it looked as if the visitors might get through the first half unscathed, Constable's quality finishing proved the difference between the sides.

Kidderminster gave the ball away cheaply, Midson sent it forward and, within the blink of an eye, CONSTABLE had thrashed a brilliant first-time shot into Snedker's bottom left-hand corner with 43 minutes gone. It was his 13th goal of the season.



Smiles all round as Eastleigh celebrate their 3-1 victory against Kidderminster Harriers at the Silverlake Stadium



Eastleigh's James Constable slides in to challenge for the ball. Pic: Allan Hutchings

It could have been two seconds later, but excellent defending by Kelvin Langmead forced Drury to turn his shot wide of the near post as he connected with Partington's low cross.

Kidderminster boss Dave Hockaday threw on Lathaniel Rowe-Turner and on-loan Aldershot striker Matthew Barnes-Homer for the start of the second half and it needed a good block by Green to snuff out Omari Patrick's threat with 50 minutes gone.

Save for a decent surge into the box by Lee Cook and a dangerous cross by Partington, Eastleigh had lost their first-half impetus and were made to pay as the rock-bottom Harriers levelled on the hour.

The Spitfires survived one perilous moment when Evans just about scraped the ball off the line following a mix-up with goalkeeper Ross Flitney, but Barnes-Homer's pace

was causing the Spitfires all sorts of problems and it was he who set up the equaliser.

The powerful No9 bullied Green into a mistake outside the right of the area and delivered the ball into the danger zone where WHITFIELD swept it home.

Eastleigh looked temporarily shell-shocked and there were genuinely worrying moments every time Patrick and Barnes-Homer ran at the home defence.

But, little by little, they recovered their composure with Partington heading Reason's corner just over with 63 minutes gone.

Nine minutes later, a potentially disastrous second half turned the home side's way with another precious goal from midfield man Drury. Cook ran at the Kiddy defence and unselfishly passed the ball inside to Drury who expertly slotted it past

Snedker for 2-1.

Harriers were not yet done for, however — far from it.

With the Spitfires' defence still looking far from comfortable, Patrick played in Whitfield whose looping shot hit the inside of the post. It looked certain to be turned in as panic reigned in the Spitfires' six-yard box, but the ball went wide and the linesman's flag intervened in any case.

Eastleigh boss Chris Todd responded by throwing on Ross Lafayette for Midson and, with five minutes remaining, the Spitfires made victory secure thanks to their outstanding second-half performer Cook.

Harriers failed to clear their lines under the twin threat of Constable and Lafayette and there was Cook on the edge of the box to crack in a first-time shot to Snedker's right to the delight of the 1,862 crowd.

### NON-LEAGUE ROUND-UP

Winchester avenged their 1-0 defeat at Evesham earlier in the season with a 2-1 win.

In an even second-half both teams had chances, Charlie SMEETON put Winchester 2-0 ahead in the 64th minute when the ball found its way to him in a crowded penalty area.

Originally the referee disallowed the goal but after consulting with his assistant the goal was allowed.

In the 87th minute Adam MANN pulled goal back for Evesham. Lewis Smith also missed a good chance for Evesham and in time added on Evesham's Clayton Green was sent off.

**WINCHESTER 2  
EVESHAM 1**

**Puma Engineering League Cup, Quarter-finals**  
Baffins Milton Rovers 5

Infinity 0

Hamble Club 3 Bush Hill 2\*  
Paulsgrove 2 Burrigade AFC

1

Winchester Castle 1 Liss  
Athletic 4

**Hampshire Intermediate Cup, Third round**  
West Wight P-P Hedge End  
Rangers

**Premier Division**  
Clanfield 3 Headley United

1

Liphook United 0

Otterbourne 5

Overton United 2 Locks

Heath 3

QK Southampton 4 Colden

Common 1

Stockbridge 3 Fleetlands 5

**Division 1**  
Broughton 2 Four Marks 5  
Lyndhurst P - P Andover

Lions

Netley Central Sports 5 AFC

Petersfield 1

Upham 5 Hayling United 3

**Puma Engineering Combination Cup, Group C**  
Infinity Res A-W  
Otterbourne Res

**Combination East**

AFC Petersfield Res P-P

Baffins Milton Rovers Res

Hayling United Res P-P

Clanfield Res

Headley United Res 0

Fleetlands Res 6

Liss Athletic Res P-P

Liphook United Res

**Combination West**  
Bush Hill Res 3 Hamble  
Club Res 6  
Hedge End Rangers Res P-P  
Winchester Castle Res

**WYVERN CHALLENGE CUP**  
Quarter Final  
Alresford Town v AFC  
Portchester Away walkover

**PREMIER DIVISION**  
United Services Portsmouth  
6 Sholing 0

**DIVISION ONE**  
Alton Town 5 Hythe &  
Dibden 2  
Bashley 1 Romsey Town 1  
Laverstock & Ford P-P  
Fawley  
Lymington Town 1 Totton &  
Eling 2  
Tadley Calvea 4 Downton 3  
Verwood Town 1 AFC  
Stoneham 0



# Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

## City's history is one of always finding a way

**THE Etihad Stadium is a monument to Manchester City's progression in the footballing aristocracy.**

It has been expanded and will be expanded further as City move up in the world, but its care for fans is clear too. Outside the ground, supporters are treated to live music and entertainment on matchdays, as well as a fairly middle-class array of street food.

But there's a restaurant called 93:20 inside the stadium, too, named after the exact time when Sergio Aguero scored that goal against QPR in 2012.

Manchester City, before that moment, was really a byword for glorious failure. With the great teams of the late 60s and early 70s long gone, City's most glorious moment was perhaps Paul Dickov's strike in the 1999 Division Two play-off final, clawing City back to 2-2 and setting up a penalty shoot-out which eventually took City into Division One.

If there was ever a moment that summed-up City's experience of playing in Manchester United's shadow, this was it: only four days before that play-off final, Manchester United had scored twice in injury time to win the Champions League.

These days, though, City are blossoming. The side is maturing and the club as a whole is doing the same, and nothing says that more than their top-of-the-group finish in the Champions League this season which gives them a chance to reach the quarter-finals of the competition for the first time in their history.

But no matter how far City come, they're not really all that different to the teams that have gone by at the club.

In footballing terms, they're a world apart, but the club has been able to maintain a certain core, it has kept a key part of its personality.

It's still a club that sees itself as a pillar of its community, and it's still a club that prides itself on the kind of team spirit that brings City back from the dead.

The Division Two play-off final, the title-winning QPR victory, but lots of other examples, too. Yaya Toure's lucky strike that looped in off the back of Kelechi Iheanacho – who'll claim the goal – has to go down in that list. City seem to just always find a way.

It's a strange paradox, though.

Every time City lose, there's some sort of opinion piece denouncing their work rate, slamming, for example, Yaya Toure's laziness or City's lack of leadership.

In the end, though, they find a way. And that has to counteract statements like these. That has to go against the idea that Yaya is a lazy beast, or that City can't organise themselves, especially without Vincent Kompany.

As lucky as the goal against Swansea was, it speaks of City's resolve and desire that they were able to work a scoring opportu-



Manchester City's Yaya Toure, pictured in action against Swansea, is always accused of being lazy when his side lose

nity at all, given the lateness with which Swansea managed to score their equaliser.

There are weeks when City lose, and when they lose badly. Against Stoke, things didn't fall apart, but only because they never got it together in the first place. Against Spurs and Liverpool the lack of composure on the ball was frightening.

And City can't really rely on the defence that they've had injuries. Whilst it's true that any team in the world would suffer

given injuries to Aguero, David Silva, Toure and Kompany, City have had ample time and money to find adequate cover. Spending over £100m on two players in the summer, Kevin De Bruyne and Raheem Sterling, speaks to this. They simply needed to do a bit better.

Surely even without key players, Liverpool and Spurs aren't three goals better than City. Surely the players should have been at least good enough to do better than that.

And that's part of the City identity, too.

The ability to completely mess it up.

But let's not forget that this was a cash-strapped club that found its way back from the dead of being two goals down in the last minute of that play-off final and managed to make itself attractive enough for their new sugar daddy billionaires to propel it to the title and a sustainable future at the top.

City are blossoming into one of Europe's top teams – and it's all because of their ability to just find a way.



**Adam Rant**

**The week's big talking points  
with ADAM LEITCH**

# Murray hits an ace with LTA blast

Tennis needs to make itself much more accessible

**ADAM Rant doesn't always agree with everything that Andy Murray says, but his tirade towards the LTA, so soon after winning the Davis Cup, was not only perfectly timed but wholly accurate.**

Once more they have proven to be well intentioned but misguided in their attempts to do something about it.

Perhaps this is just never to be a tennis nation again. Perhaps, despite hosting arguably the greatest of the Grand Slam tournaments, we should just give up that idea.

Alright, we don't have an all-year-round climate ideal for playing for tennis, but it seems we only perk up and notice our failure to produce young players of the highest quality through our own well-funded system in the fortnight building up to Wimbledon.

The LTA have proudly announced this week they are going to supply free tennis lessons and rackets to children.

It's a start, but it doesn't nearly go far enough.

Once again they have missed the overarching point. They have to find a way to make the sport less elitist and more accessible for all.

We cannot simply focus solely on a system that gets kids playing tennis so we can cherry pick a few that might make elite level and ditch the rest. We have to make it a part of our sporting culture.

That means encouraging adults as well as children to play.

Put bluntly, that means making it affordable.

Once kids go out of that little bubble of time when their talent is decided upon, they spend the rest of their lives either having to cough up a small fortune to play the sport for much of the year, or they give it up entirely.

Sadly, the truth is that for many people the latter is the only feasible option.

There isn't a simple solution when so much of the year has to be spent playing indoors. The facilities therefore cost more money to build and maintain.

But to effectively have to either pay to join an expensive private club with courts, or pay through the nose for a one-off booking, has not been a plan that has worked so far.



Andy Murray holds aloft the Davis Cup after winning the final against Belgium

Getting kids into tennis is of course a first step, but it simply cannot be the only measure we take. We need to keep them in it and hope they are still playing as adults, so encourage their own kids to do the same and so on.

Only then, by taking that long

view, will we change things. The LTA has to take the lead on that, and also market itself better, to make clear the opportunities it does provide, the free outdoor courts that exist in our area, the discounted rates you can get indoors at a few venues at certain times.

Their latest initiative is a start, but it just seems we keep our eye off the prize.

To develop youngsters in the future we don't just have to get rackets in their hands now, but to ensure this is a sport for everyone, not just the privileged few.

## Chelsea's real test

JOSE Mourinho getting sacked was the most predictable part of this week.

It had begun to seem as if he was doing everything in his power to get out of Chelsea.

His incredible diatribe about his players after the defeat to Leicester did feel like one final push to end the misery, and to settle a few scores on the way out.

With Mourinho you know what you are getting. Somebody who has qualities that draw people towards him, but also ones that can push people away.

Sometimes the same people.

Chelsea are a shambles.

The best approach in the long run would be to back the manager and allow him to change the players. But that's also the most costly option, and so it simply will not happen in modern football.

Instead the temporary fix of changing who is in charge is always seen as the best option so exit Mourinho.

We will find out now if his words have any truth in them.

If Chelsea suddenly start playing and performing without him it will prove him correct, and be a very sad indictment on the professionalism of the multi-millionaires in the squad.



Jose Mourinho

## KP snub a tragedy

WATCHING the documentary on Kevin Pietersen it was hard not to get angry about the loss of one of England's greatest ever batsmen.

He is clearly tricky to handle, despite his protestations to the contrary. Like many of the maverick greats of the sporting world, this goes hand-in-hand with his playing ability.

The true mark of success is being able to manage a player like this. It is something which England, and the ECB, have failed spectacularly at.

They can reasonably throw their arms aloft at some of Pietersen's antics, and use that as a justification, but it underlines their failures.



# SAINTS SPOTLIGHT



## A season to be jolly ...



### Saints have a lot to cheer at Christmas

**"SO THIS is Christmas, and what have you done?" said John Lennon in "Merry Christmas War Is Over."**

So what have we done? For the first time in five years, Saints fans are facing the bitter taste of failure as a heavy cup defeat to Liverpool, followed by a disappointing draw at home to Villa and an away defeat to Crystal Palace.

Though it may be a disappointing time for us, this season has so far been a delight.

It's been a season of unpredictability and upsets and seen the likes of Leicester and Crystal Palace exceed all expectations while Chelsea flounder and fall.

You could be mean and remind Chelsea fans that Claudio Ranieri was the man who managed Chelsea before they started supporting the club, but it's Christmas so let's not be that cruel.

In Southampton's case two good seasons on the trot led to two consecutive seasons of upheaval and saw the best part of a full, first team poached by clubs in the top five.

Palace provide an interesting comparison, especially in regards to players like Cabaye who just about every Saints fan thinks we should have bought in the summer.

You can ignore that Cabaye was probably on £100,000 a week and just concentrate on the fact he's a great player. You could forget about how one player on that sort of money would lead to other players demanding that sort of wage... and getting it, just before that player signs for a top five squad leaving you with a squad with a vastly inflated wage bill.

The harsh truth is that Leicester and Palace are as good as the top five clubs allow them to be in a single season. Any players



Victor Wanyama battles Bournemouth's Harry Arter battle for the ball

of quality will be linked with those clubs within that season and the next year you can expect them to either go in January or leave for a lesser amount the following summer.

It's started already, Jamie Vardy is being linked to (fill in the blanks club) and it won't be long before Leicester and Palace's squads are subject to football's corporate raiders and find themselves in exactly the same position Saints have been over the last few seasons.

Both clubs could buck the trend and take a firm stance, defiantly telling Liverpool and Tottenham that their players are "Not for sale!" but we know that it will only be a matter of time before the likes of Vardy dream of the trophies that they won't win

at Liverpool or Tottenham and force that move for what will inevitably be a lesser fee than was originally offered as yet another year has expired on their contract.

You don't have to be a raging cynic to see that Saints actually did the right thing over the last few years rather than the popular thing. Yes, we could have held on to the likes of Clyne and Lallana but when players make such public statements expressing their desire to leave, you have one choice and one choice only... Sell them.

You can see it in Victor Wanyama. He has had a disappointing season so far and is a fair distance off the player he was last year. It's no coincidence the moment he's linked to the likes of Arsenal, his form dips.

With Saints, unless there's a massive shift

in how football is run, we will always be in a state of continual flux... unless we break the bank and pay these players what they think they're worth. They'll always come up with the same "Bigger club, better chance of winning stuff, blah, blah, blah" and then they'll join the likes of Tottenham and Liverpool and not win anything but not win anything on a higher wage.

The powers that be need to take a long hard look at this season and how exciting and unpredictable it is.

Had Saints not been raided again this summer, they would again be challenging for a top five position and with Palace and Leicester on blistering form, what a season it would have been.



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# Non league FOOTBALL



Andy Darnton

## Darnton itching for a return to football coaching

ANDY Darnton has been out of football since leaving his post as first-team coach at Christchurch in March this year.

But the former Bashley defender and manager has been putting his time to good use, adding to his coaching/scouting CV.

A licensed coach, he has done his FA youth modules and has recently been on a PFSA (Professional Football Scouts Association) course and is now an accredited football scout.

Darnton would love to put his skills into practice by getting back onto the training round with a new club.

"I've got over ten years' experience coaching and managing in the Southern and Wessex leagues," said Darnton. "I helped out Winchester City in pre-season and it's great to see them doing so well."

"I've been ticking over with a bit of coaching at youth level along with doing some scouting analysis for Southern and Conference teams."

"My preference though is to get back coaching at a decent level in men's football. I've done some scouting for some mates, but now I want to focus on the coaching and management side."

After a distinguished defensive career,

Southampton-based Darnton moved into coaching/management with the old Andover FC, Romsey Town and Verwood before teaming up with Graham Speechley-Price at Bashley in the summer of 2014.

But that partnership ended last October when Speechley-Price texted him to say Bash were looking for a manager who could bring finances and players into the club - an episode Darnton admits "left a sour taste in the mouth."

He then linked up again with former Verwood boss Adie Arnold at Christchurch but left when Priory decided to go in a more local direction.

## Blues are frustrated

**BEMUSED** Portland United boss Gary Bailey cannot believe how much his Sydenhams League newcomers have been starved of game time as they head into the festive period.

The Blues yet again saw their scheduled fixture washed out last weekend - this time at Pewsey Vale.

That leaves the Island outfit with just one league fixture throughout the whole of December when they host Ringwood Town at Grove Corner on the 29th.

Moneyfields, who were set to face Portland in midweek, drew against Brimscombe & Thrupp in the FA Vase last Saturday and their Tuesday replay left the Blues without a fixture once more as their planned Wessex League Cup tie had to be put back.

Portland - who rejoined the Sydenhams ranks from the Dorset Premier League last summer - have not played a league fixture since their 6-0 win over New Milton Town on November 21.

Their last competitive outing came against Dorchester Town in the Dorset Senior Cup on December 1.

Speaking about his side's involuntary winter break, boss Bailey, who put together an internal training game for his squad last weekend, admitted: "The players are very frustrated, we all are really."

"The postponements for the weather you have to take on the chin. You can't do anything about that, it's out of everyone's hands."

"The one before where they (Fleet Spurs) were unable to fill a squad is the really frustrating one. I would not expect that at this level. When they have around 40 players signed on, it is frustrating."

Bailey added: "Through no fault of our own we have gone from having a seven-point cushion to possibly being second without kicking a ball."

"You just hope that we haven't lost our momentum. Consistency and form are key things when you are trying to challenge."



Gary Bailey

# Hollick's feet remaining on the ground after great win

### Totton's manager happy to turn tide after four defeats

**IT'S** not often a side has the thrill of scoring seven in the Southern One South & West.

But if AFC Totton boss Steve Hollick did not sound quite as overjoyed as he might have done after last Saturday's Testwood Stadium goal blitz against Bishops Cleeve, it's because he knows exactly what it's like to be on the other end of a hammering.

Never has the Jekyll & Hyde nature of the Stags' season been so aptly demonstrated as in the last month, writes **WENDY GEE**.

Their mad, rollercoaster ride plunged them to 6-0 and 5-0 lows at Evesham and North Leigh respectively before soaring to the heights of a 7-0 demolition job on ten-man Bishops Cleeve.

"We're a bit bipolar, aren't we?" smiled Hollick afterwards.

"We were excellent today, but the flip side is that we've had some big defeats."

"I don't want to crow too much about this performance because we've had some really iffy ones as well which I've tried to be honest about."

"You've got to feel sorry for Bishops Cleeve. They had been on a good run and it helped us that they had a player sent off [on 34 minutes at 0-0]."

"But we were well on top already by then and I'd been feeling very positive going into the game."

"We'd trained well on the Thursday and we'd got our full squad back."

"The bench was as strong as I've seen it all season."

"We built on what we'd done on Tuesday night [a slender 1-0 home defeat by Mangotsfield] and defensively we didn't put a foot wrong."

"We know that when everyone is fit and available, we've got real quality and options going forward, but



AFC Totton's Mark Lilley, right.

what really pleased me was the clean sheet. Defensively we were bang on."

Nathaniel Sherborne scored twice, backed by singles from Neil Williams, Mike Gosney, fit-again sub Mark Lilley and an almost comical own goal by Cleeve 'keeper Matt Wiecek

from a Gosney corner.

But the jewel in the crown came from 18-year-old midfielder Jack Alexander, who recently joined the Stags on a permanent basis following his release from Eastleigh.

It was just a pity the *Match of the*

*Day* cameras weren't there!

His scorching 30-yarder into the top corner had Hollick purring: "You won't see a better goal than that at the Testwood Stadium this season!"

"The shot was still rising as it hit the back of the net."



# Non league FOOTBALL



Lee Wort, left.

## Killick smiles as Wort proves his worth in the wind at Bedworth

TOMMY Killick watched ex-Sholing hotshot Lee Wort set the seal on Poole Town's hard-fought 2-0 victory at Bedworth United last Saturday and declared: "He is better than I expected."

The Southern Premier leaders had to dig deep in windswept Warwickshire after Marvin Brooks had converted Wort's overhead kick from close range in the 38th minute.

It was backs to the wall against the elements in the second half, but Southampton-based Wort – signed on a month's loan from Gosport Borough – smashed home from the edge of the box to ensure all three points were taken back to Tatnam.

Admitting that St Mary's lad Wort

had exceeded even his expectations, long-term admirer Killick said: "I knew Lee would be really industrious, physically good, strong and quick but, technically, he is probably better than I expected."

"He has a very good touch and brings people into the game very well. We have got ourselves a better player than we thought we had."

### Conversations

"I was aware of him when Sholing were in the South & West with us, but the main time I tried to sign him was

when he left there.

"He had been on trial at Accrington and we held conversations, but he ended up going to Gosport."

"Since then, I have regularly investigated the possibility of a loan move."

"It's too early to tell what might happen beyond the initial month. We have to respect the position of Gosport and the player, but he has made a good start and long may that continue."

Saturday's win saw Poole stride 12 points clear at the top of the table.

The chasing pack have up to three games in hand, but Killick prefers having points on the board rather than playing catch-up as they did last

year when their title charge stalled and they eventually crashed out in the play-offs.

"It took us until the end of January last season to complete the number of games we have this time round," he said.

"What caused us problems last year was the number of games we had to play towards the end. We had that very ill-fated week where we played Saturday, Monday, Wednesday, Saturday and picked up only one point."

"Being ahead of ourselves to a much bigger extent, we're hopeful those problems won't arise."

# Claridge happy and relieved to be into last 32 of FA Vase

## Salisbury beat Highworth Town 5-1 to progress

**SALISBURY boss Steve Claridge felt a mixture of relief and elation after his side had destroyed Highworth Town 5-1 in the FA Vase.**

Claridge watched his Whites proudly fly the Sydenhams Premier flag into the last 32 after making a stunning start at the Elms Recreation Ground.

They strode into the interval holding a four-goal advantage thanks to ex-Eastleigh and Winchester striker Sam Wilson, Brandon Mundy, Kane O'Keefe and Tom Whelan.

Former Blackfield & Langley winger Danny Young added a fifth two minutes after the restart to seal the tie.

Jon Davoile pulled a consolation goal back for the Hellenic Premier hosts before Highworth's Toby Clark was dismissed in the dying stages for a kick on Robbie Matthews.

"I'm extremely happy," beamed Claridge.

"It's a mixture of being happy and some relief, I suppose, that we got the job done."

"When you look around at the conditions, we did a fantastic job first half and absolutely destroyed them at times."

"We outworked them, outplayed them and were better in every department."

"We went out in the second half and put the game to bed."

"Your levels are going to come down in the game when you are 5-0 up and you've done what you've needed to do."

"They were never going to get back into the game, but were spirited and never stopped trying."

"When you look at their record



Salisbury manager Steve Claridge

(nine out of 10 wins) they've been very good of late, but we've gone out and been very, very good."

Whites' reward is a fourth round tie at AFC Dunstable, who saw off Basildon United 4-0 last weekend.

Claridge's men make the trip to Creasey Park, Bedfordshire, on Saturday, January 9 to take on the Spartan South Midlands League title-chasers.

It's another tough-looking tie on paper but, considering Highworth and Salisbury's second-round victims AFC St Austell were both semi-finalists last season, the Whites should have nothing to fear.

"We are happy to get through against two of last season's semi-finalists," said Claridge. "We've had tough games already and that will continue. We don't expect it to get

any easier. All I know is that there will be a lot of teams out there who won't want to play us. These lads have developed a winning mentality. We don't fear anyone at this level."

Salisbury are bidding to become the fourth Wessex League team to lift the FA Vase, following in the footsteps of Wimborne Town (1992), Winchester City (2004) and Sholing (2014).

## Jack's the main man

**BOURNEMOUTH Poppies are loving their new Jack-in-the-box.**

Since leaving Brockenhurst for Victoria Park, lively marksman Kabba Jack has bagged four goals in two outings.

Three of them came at Arlebury Park last weekend as Poppies punished fellow Sydenhams Premier strugglers Alresford 6-3.

Boss Ken Vaughan said: "We have been crying out for a striker."

"Kabba was with us some time back but disappeared and ended up at New Milton (in Sydenhams One)."

"He wanted a step up so we went to Brockenhurst and then couldn't get a place when they signed (ex-Poppies marksman) Scott Joyce. But he certainly has a place with us, that's for sure."

"I don't think we've had a striker in two seasons, since Joyce was with us really. We just can't get them."

"Kabba is firing on all cylinders and can only get better."

Fawzi Saadi (2) and Jack gave Poppies a 3-0 half-time lead and, to add to Alresford's woes, John Mulhern limped off injured.

The Magpies were better going forward in the second half, but were punished defensively as Jack and Luke Ayrton extended Bournemouth's lead.

Ex-Saints and Eastleigh midfielder Brian Howard and Ben Dexter mustered two quick Alresford replies.



Kabba Jack



## Non league FOOTBALL



### New manager must buy into club's vision of future development

WHOEVER the new manager of AFC Stoneham is, it's essential they buy into the club's vision for the future.

There are exciting times around the corner for the Eastleigh-based outfit who will be moving out of their current Elliotts Arena home – formerly the Pirelli Sports Ground – in two to three years' time.

"Our ground is getting knocked down to have housing built on it,

similar to AFC Totton," explained chairman Mark Stuppel, who was briefly vice-chairman of the Stags.

"It's not been announced yet where the new ground will be, but let's just say it's not far from where we are now.

"We'll have a main pitch, an astroturf pitch, a new clubhouse and three junior pitches, which will create new revenue streams for the club.

"Hopefully it should happen in two to two-and-a-half years' time and we want to be doing well when we get there.

"So whoever we appoint as manager has got to buy into our vision of where the club is going and should be aware that our youth set-up will be an important part of that.

"Adam (Pullinger, former boss) played a big part in getting us where

we are now and there have been many other people involved too. A lot of money and hard work has gone into getting the current ground up to spec for the Wessex League.

"Sometimes you need change to go forward."

Applicants for the first-team manager's job should, in the first instance, contact Stuppel on 07764 882966.

### Response with style

WHAT a difference four days can make!

After labouring to a 1-1 Sydenhams Premier draw at Verwood Town last weekend, Sholing were a side transformed on Wednesday as they crushed the Potters 3-0 at Portsmouth Road to claim a place in the Sydenhams League Cup quarter-finals.

With Pete Castle and Jack Smith missing through illness, Dan Miller injured and skipper Byron Mason suspended, Diaper drafted James Davis, Kevin Brewster, Owen Roundell and Nick Yeomans into the side.

The reshuffled Boatmen responded with a brilliant first-half display, starting after just two minutes when midfielder Alex Sawyer poked them in front.

Top scorer Dan Mason missed a penalty, but Brewster's corking effort gave the Boatmen the two-goal cushion they so richly deserved.

### Fearsome

Man-of-the-match Barry Mason's fearsome strike completed the rout on 67 minutes, meaning Sholing went into today's league showdown against Fareham having won their last ten home games.

Indeed, spoilt fans at the Silverlake Arena have not tasted defeat for 14 matches since Swindon Supermarine won there in August.

Diaper smiled: "Well, what a difference from Saturday's performance – high tempo, we kept the ball on the ground, great movement, passion, desire and good work ethic.

"Now that's the Sholing I know and love!"

Knockout specialists Sholing are now in the quarter-finals of three competitions – the SWL Cup (draw not yet made), the Hampshire FA Senior Cup (away to Winchester City/Eastleigh) and the Russell Cotes Cup (home to Gosport Borough).



Sholing's Barry Mason

# Stoneham coach steps in to help club after boss resigns

### Applications pour in for vacant job at Elliotts arena

AFC STONEHAM have placed head coach Carl Whittington in temporary charge of first-team affairs following the departure of Adam Pullinger.

Pullinger who, at just 23, was the youngest manager in the Sydenhams Wessex League, resigned last week taking with him an impressive list of achievements including Puma Engineering Hampshire Premier League Cup glory and promotion to Wessex One.

The departed boss feels "a new project is needed", leaving Stoneham with big boots to fill.

But, by the sounds of it, they should have no problem finding a successor with as many as 14 applications received within just a couple of days of Pullinger's departure – even though the news had yet to be officially announced.

### Marvellous

"The response we got before we'd even advertised the job was marvellous," said chairman Mark Stuppel.

"That's testament to what Adam achieved here, where we are going as a club and our status in the Wessex League.

"Adam did a great job here and is very highly thought of, but it was quite a big step up for him.

"We finished 30 points off the top of the Hampshire Premier League last season and still got into the Wessex League [in fourth spot] and, all



Adam Pullinger, right, has resigned as AFC Stoneham boss.

told, we've taken 30 out of the last 90 league points.

"We lost to Lymington Town in the Hampshire Senior Cup last week and Adam decided to resign after the game. He spoke to our long-serving secretary Geoff Smith and said he would be stepping down with his assistant Wayne Simpson."

Stoneham have every faith that Whittington, who worked with management team Tim Cole and Danny Robinson at Alresford Town and Winchester City, will do a good job in temporary charge, helped by ex-player Martin Rogers, who was also an Alresford man.

"Carl has proved himself to be a

very professional, structured coach, so I'm in no mad rush [to appoint a new manager]," said Stuppel.

"I'm not sure if he wants the job full-time or not but, whatever happens, he knows we want him to stay.

"Carl's been our coach up to this point and is a pivotal part in what we're doing."

## Cornick further extends loan at Yeovil

FORMER Sydenhams League bright spark Harry Cornick has further extended his loan at League Two strugglers Yeovil Town in the new year.

The 20-year-old AFC Bournemouth forward joined the Glovers two days before the start of the 2015/16 campaign and his latest deal will keep him at Huish Park until January 11, 2016.

Since making an instant impact by

scoring as a substitute at Exeter on the opening day, Cornick has made 27 Yeovil appearances with five of his six goals arriving in the league, including the winner in a 1-0 success at Crawley in September.

### Extension

The extension comes despite the sacking of ex-Saints boss Paul Sturrock at the start of this month, leav-

ing caretaker Darren Way in charge for an indefinite period.

Cornick, plucked from Wessex outfit Christchurch in 2013, made his competitive Cherries debut as a 71st-minute substitute in the 5-1 FA Cup third round victory at Rotherham United last season.

He has also enjoyed loan spells with non-League duo Welling United and Havant & Waterlooville.



Harry Cornick



# Non league FOOTBALL



Micky Hubbard

## New signing Hubbard makes an instant impression

WINCHESTER City's Micky Hubbard wasted no time making an impact for his new club Bemerton.

The experienced midfielder, dual-signed from City after the briefest of stays with Lymington Town, scored in last Saturday's 2-2 draw against Team Solent in the Sydenhams Premier.

Hubbard equalised from a free-kick after quickfire Martin Johnson had given the Students a second-minute lead at Western Way.

Jack Lovell put the hosts in front, bundling the ball over the line at the far post, only for Jesse Waller-Lassen's set-piece to deceive Bemerton goalkeeper Joe Prodomo and creep over the line.

Joining Hubbard at Western Way is another new signing David Legg from manager Graham Kemp's former charges Hamworthy.

Kemp also managed Legg during his successful era at Christchurch and is delighted to be teaming up again with the flexible defender, who was skipper at Hamworthy.

"I have a lot of admiration for David," he said. "He is exactly the type of character you want with all the right attributes to do well at this level."

Hubbard had been due to return to his parent club Winchester on Tuesday and get a 90-minute run-out against Eastleigh in the Hampshire FA Senior Cup.

But heavy rain forced the tie to be postponed and it has been rearranged for this coming Tuesday (December 22, 7.45pm).

It replaces Winchester's scheduled Southern One South & West showdown at Marlow which will be moved to a later date.

The winners of Tuesday's tie will travel to last season's beaten HSC finalists Sholing in the quarter-finals.

Hampshire FA Senior Cup, quarter-final draw: Havant & Waterlooville v AFC Portchester, Basingstoke Town v Totton & Eling or Horndean, Winchester City or Eastleigh v Sholing, Fleet Town v Lymington Town.

## Brewers toast win

A CROWD of over 250 welcomed Alton Town to their new Anstey Park Enclosure home last Saturday.

And the Brewers – managed by former AFC Totton and Poole Town frontman Michael Charles – rose to the occasion with a 4-0 Sydenhams One win over 10-man AFC Stoneham.

Alton took the lead through a Luke Perkins penalty and, with Stoneham centre-back Matt Palmer getting his marching orders, Perkins then doubled their advantage from an acute angle.

Jonny Gray, the player adjudged to have been fouled for the penalty, netted twice in the second half to cap an historic day for Alton.

Although honoured to be part of the grand opening, Stoneham were not so charmed with the result.

"It's not good when you have your star centre-back red-carded after 15 minutes," said chairman Mark Stuppel.

"Matt Palmer won the ball, but the referee's given a penalty and sent him off."

"We were up against it after that playing on Alton's new astroturf surface."

### Tough going

Fareham Town also found the going tough on the Anstey Park 3G pitch on Tuesday, losing 4-2 to Alton in the second round of the Sydenhams League Cup.

The tie had been due to be played at Fareham's Cams Alders HQ but, with heavy rain forecast, it was switched to Alton.

The Brewers were two up before Dan Jackson pulled one back for the visitors. Fareham then fell 4-1 down with Callum Laycock grabbing a late consolation for the Wessex Premier side.

Charles will now go head-to-head with another former Totton striker in the last 16.

The Brewers' reward is a trip to James Taylor's Team Solent.

Charles tweeted: "Lads played well tonight. Outplayed a team in a league above."



Michael Charles

# Hat-trick hero Lanahan fires Blackfield & Langley through

Stoneham hit for six in cup as B&L set up Romsey tie

**SHARP-SHOOTING Sam Lanahan fired Blackfield & Langley through to the quarter-finals of the Southampton Senior Cup on Tuesday.**

Lanahan – a late addition to the starting XI after Liam Robinson had been injured in the pre-match warm-up – struck four times in a 6-1 victory over AFC Stoneham at Gang Warily.

Dan Cann, who recently returned to the Blackfield fold from Winchester City, hit two first-half goals along with one from Lanahan as the Watersiders went in three up the break.

And it was all Lanahan in the second half as he blew away the Sydenhams One visitors with a whirlwind 18-minute hat-trick in the 56th, 69th and 74th minutes.

Ben Clarke reduced the arrears for Stoneham with 11 minutes to go, but Blackfield made chances galore and had another three 'goals' ruled out by the assistant referee.

The Sydenhams Premier Watersiders will face another Division One outfit in the last eight, away to Andy Samuels' Romsey Town.

Southampton Divisional Football Association Saturday Senior Cup (sponsored by TrophyMan), quarter-final draw: Brockenhurst v Hamble Club, Chamberlayne v Netley Central Sports, Lymington Town v Team Solent, Romsey Town v Blackfield & Langley.

● BLACKFIELD & Langley are one of four Sydenhams Premier clubs to have applied for promotion.

Step five outfits had until November 30 to declare their intent to climb the non-league pyramid and AFC Portchester, Andover Town, Blackfield and Salisbury are the quartet who have pushed themselves forward.

Subject to ground inspections,



Sam Lanahan scored for goals for Blackfield & Langley.

the highest-ranked finisher within the top three is eligible to go up, with only one team taken from each division under normal circumstances.

● GOSPORT Borough etched six different names onto the scoresheet

in a 6-0 Russell Cotes Cup caning of Cowes Sports.

Perry Ryan, George Barker, Dan Wooden, Justin Bennett and Ryan Woodford made it 5-0 at the break before Rowan Vine brought up the half-dozen.

A trip to Sholing awaits Borough in

the quarter final stage.

Russell Cotes Cup, quarter-final draw: AFC Portchester v Christchurch, Bashley or Petersfield Town, Sholing v Gosport Borough, Blackfield & Langley v Lymington Town or Fleet Town, Moneyfields v Otterbourne.



# Non league FOOTBALL



Steve Claridge

## In-form Salisbury earn club-of-the-month accolade

WILTSHIRE rule the roost in the Sydenhams Wessex League's November club-of-the-month awards.

Steve Claridge's Salisbury have taken the Premier Division honours, while the Division One prize goes to Laverstock & Ford.

Although Salisbury played just two league fixtures last month, they managed to bang in 12 goals at the expense of Folland Sports and Team Solent.

But their headline-line making exploits came in the FA Vase where they blitzed last season's semi-finalists AFC St Austell 4-0.

Lavvy, meanwhile, propelled themselves up the first division table with three league wins and a draw.

FORMER Aldershot Town goalkeeper Nikki Bull has been appointed boss of Margate until the end of the season in a

player/manager capacity.

Two familiar names had been linked with the Hartsdown Park post following the departure of Terry Brown – ex-Saint Micky Adams and former Eastleigh boss Richard Hill, who left the Spitfires in September.

Bull was due to take his first game in charge at home to Alex Pike's Gosport Borough in the Vanarama National League South this weekend.

## Unbeaten run ends

WINCHESTER City drew praise from the opposition manager after their ten-match unbeaten run was broken by a 2-1 defeat at Taunton.

City travelled on a high of nine wins and a draw, but fell foul of an inspired double substitution made by Peacocks boss Leigh Robinson with the score goalless on 62 minutes.

On went Ben Carter and Craig Veal and, within seven minutes, the latter had struck twice.

Winchester hit back when master marksman Warren Bentley nodded home a ricocheted clearance at the far post. But the Citizens were left to rue three blinding first-half saves from Taunton stopper Lloyd Irish which stymied Zach Glasspool, twice, and Bentley.

Taunton's manager Robinson admitted his side had been pushed all the way.

"It was a fantastic three points for us against a very good Winchester team," he said. "We felt at half-time that it was a 50-50 game and the first goal would be incredibly important."

"We were delighted that Craig came on and gave us real impact and momentum with that first goal."

Winchester boss Paul Masters felt a draw would have been fair, but acknowledged: "Taunton's a tough place to go and they're one of the best sides we've played. They're quite well organised but, after going in 0-0 at half-time, I thought we could go on and win it."

"It wasn't to be, but we've been on a great run and the lads have been brilliant. I couldn't ask for any more than everyone's given me."

Irish was beaten twice at Wimborne Town on Tuesday.

Simon Browne's Magpies led on 31 minutes after Irish failed to hold Carl Preston's centre and Jon Blake steered home. It got worse for Peacocks four minutes into first-half stoppage time when Preston struck. Taunton hit back twice in three minutes for a 2-2 draw through Veal and Lewis Powell.

# Eastleigh to host Gateshead in Trophy clash at Silverlake

### Heed boss Aspin doesn't relish a Hampshire outing

**GATESHEAD will be Eastleigh's visitors in the last 32 of the FA Trophy next month.**

The Tynesiders muzzled Northern Premier Division One South underdogs Stocksbridge Park Steels 4-1 at the International Stadium on Tuesday to set up an all-National League showdown at the Silverlake on January 16.

The eighth-tier Steels had already eliminated two higher-ranked sides en route to the first round proper, including last year's Wembley victors North Ferriby United, *writes Wendy Gee*.

And they got off to a flyer on Tyneside as in-form frontman Scott Ruthven found the net with just seven minutes gone.

But once Nathan Buddle had equalised just before half-time, the pendulum swung in the hosts' favour as Ryan Bowman, Gus Mafuta and Danny Johnson weighed in with second-half strikes.

The Heed have already triumphed at the Silverlake this term, edging the Spitfires 2-1 in the league on September 12.

It was perhaps the most depressing afternoon of Eastleigh's season.

Former manager Richard Hill was supposed to be celebrating his third anniversary at the club.

Instead he endured 90 minutes of abject misery, starting when on-loan Portsmouth goalkeeper Michael Poke damaged his shoulder colliding with Danny Thompson a split second before Gateshead's opener went in.

Poke briefly soldiered on before indicating to the bench that he could not continue.

Eastleigh had young understudy Lewis Noice readied on the touchline but were unable to get him on before Gateshead made it 2-0 on 34 minutes with a Matty Pattison cross-shot that the injured Poke couldn't reach.

Just when you thought it couldn't get any worse, it did. Following an half-time altercation in the tunnel, the Spitfires' experienced midfield-



Eastleigh's James Constable in action during Gateshead's win in Hampshire earlier this season.

er Ben Strevens was red-carded. Against the odds, the Spitfires improved in the second half and pulled one back through Joe Partington on 78 minutes.

But despite a rousing finale, the points went up to Tyneside.

That gloomy afternoon now seems lights years away with Eastleigh entering this weekend on an electrifying run of 12 wins and a draw from 15 games under Hill's successor Chris Todd.

They began today sitting fourth in

the National League, are through to the FA Cup third round for the first time in their history and defied an injury crisis to triumph 1-0 in the Trophy at Aldershot last week.

Small wonder Heed boss Neil Aspin is not exactly relishing a return to Stoneham Lane.

"Eastleigh away is one of the toughest ties we could have been handed – not a draw you would want," he confessed.

FA Trophy, second round draw (ties to be

played on Saturday, January 16): Dulwich Hamlet v Guiseley, Dover Athletic v Southport or Worcester City, Havant & Waterlooville v Welling United, Truro City v Macclesfield Town or Ashton United, Braintree Town or Bromley v Stourbridge, Chester v Hungerford Town, Eastbourne Borough v AFC Fylde or Skelmersdale United, Concord Rangers or Sutton United or Lowestoft Town v Curzon Ashton or Nuneaton Town, Torquay United v Wrexham, Grimsby Town or Solihull Moors v Weston Super Mare or Wealdstone, FC Halifax Town v Barrow, Eastleigh v Gateshead, Bognor Regis Town v Altrincham or Leamington, Bradford (Park Avenue) or Lincoln City v Nantwich Town, Woking v Maidenhead United, Oxford City v Cheltenham Town.



Warren Bentley



# Non league FOOTBALL



Totton's Taylor Edwards

## AFC Totton send three out to get match practice

AFC TOTTON have sent out three players to get some much-needed game time in the Sydenhams Wessex League.

With the Stags squad now fully fit again, barring AFC Bournemouth loanee Jack Simpson, manager Steve Hollick suddenly found himself with a surfeit of bodies on his hands.

Defender Tony Rolls was the first to go off in search of match minutes at Brockenhurst and now fellow centre-back Luke Dempsey has done

likewise by penning dual registration forms for Andover Town.

Striker Taylor Edwards is staying far closer to home, nipping over the fence to help out Sydenhams One neighbours Totton & Eling.

### Relationship

"We've got a good relationship with these clubs and they've taken these lads off us to give them a run-out," Hollick explained. "They all need games."

Praising physio Dave Penny for his hard work in getting his Southern One South & West squad back in rude health, Hollick added: "Dave's done an amazing job."

"He's an important member of our backroom staff and he helps lads from other clubs, like Brockenhurst and Team Solent, too."

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## Stewart's nice touch

EASTLEIGH supporters can thank their lucky stars to have a chairman like Stewart Donald.

Ever since arriving at the Silverlake Stadium, Donald has focused on bringing the club closer to the local community and making football more accessible to fans.

Value-for-money season tickets and free-entry matches are among the many generous initiatives the chairman has introduced, both to attract new support and ease the burden on existing fans' pockets.

Donald's latest gift is put the winnings from last Saturday's 1-0 FA Trophy victory at Aldershot towards helping the travelling support over Christmas.

Substitute Ross Lafayette's late winner at the EBB Stadium earned Eastleigh a £5,000 pay-out from FA prize pot and Donald announced on The Spitfires Supporters Club (TSSC) forum: "I am delighted that we have agreed with the TSSC, following our win in the FA Trophy fixture on Saturday, that we would use the winnings to help the travelling Spitfires over Xmas."

### Pleased

"Therefore we are pleased to announce that away travel to the Bromley fixture (on Boxing Day) will be free."

"Hopefully this will help a little at an expensive time of year whilst also showing how much we appreciate your support and encouraging as many of you to travel as possible!!"

"There are still some funds left over from the win and these will be used to help subsidise away travel in January in what is without doubt a long month financially!!"

"Announcements on the travel for January will be made in due course."

"Merry Xmas guys!" Eastleigh's win at Aldershot extended their sensational away run since Chris Todd was appointed manager. The Spitfires have won nine of the ten away games they have played under him, and in the other they drew at National League leaders Cheltenham.



Stewart Donald

# Tributes are paid to popular Wessex footballer Nick

'He has left a big void ... football has lost a character'

TRIBUTES have been paid to a well-known Hampshire footballer and a "devoted" family man.

Sydenhams Wessex League striker Nick Dadds, a father-of-two, was found dead in a underpass. Flowers and cards have been laid near the scene on Pilgrims Way where his body was discovered.

The popular 26-year-old played for Andover New Street after spending last term with Andover Lions in the Hampshire Premier League.

"He was an amazing person who was always happy and always had a smile on his face," said his cousin Naydine Clarke.

"He was a brilliant dad to his two children and completely devoted to his partner Chelsey."

She added: "I will always cherish our childhood memories and I miss his smile already."

Last season Nick played for Andover Lions where he was top scorer.

On Sundays he also turned out for Andover Arms, scoring 20 goals in 2014/15 as the team won the Andover Sunday League, the North Hampshire Senior Cup and the Hampshire Intermediate Cup. He had scored six goals so far this season.

Chairman of Andover New Street, Martin Tobin, said: "We are all totally devastated. Nick will be such a big loss not just as a footballer but a person as well."

"I always found him to be a really approachable person, who was good fun and enjoyed a bit of banter. On the field he was a 110 per cent player, he would give everything."

"I would like to send my condolences to his family and friends."

Andover Lions' club secretary Chris Paris said: "Nick bags of confidence in front of goal and would hit a shot from anywhere, he didn't normally score tap-ins."

"You knew what you were going to get out of Nick; he worked hard and always put a shift in."



Nick Dadds pictured last season with silverware won while playing for Andover Arms.

"He was an extremely popular member of the squad, always had a story to tell and kept everyone up to date with the latest scores for the Football Betting Accumulators."

"We are devastated by the loss and our thoughts and condolences go out to his partner Chelsey, his children

and to all of his family and friends."

John Smith, Nick's Sunday manager from The Arms was equally shocked and upset by the news.

He said: "Nick's loss is tragic."

"His family and his friends have lost someone very close and very dear to them and, on a sporting level,

local football has lost a real character and personality."

"Everyone liked Nick."

"The lads will miss him; he has left a big void in the changing room and an even bigger void in people's lives."



## Timeline of Mourinho's dire season

Chelsea sacked manager Jose Mourinho this week - just a few days after saying he felt "betrayed" by his players after a 2-1 loss at Leicester.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the Portuguese's troubled and controversial season, on and off the pitch.

**August 8:** Mourinho criticises Chelsea first-team doctor Carneiro and physiotherapist Jon Fearn for naivety in running on to the field to treat Eden Hazard in the opening-day draw with Swansea. Mourinho is cleared by the FA of abusing Carneiro, who then subsequently leaves Chelsea.

**August 16:** Chelsea lose 3-0 at Manchester City, with Mourinho substituting captain John Terry at half-time.

**August 29:** Mourinho's 100th Premier League home match results in only a second loss as his side go down 2-1 to Crystal Palace.

**September 12:** The Blues lose again as they are beaten 3-1 at Everton, Steven Naismith with a hat-trick.

**September 19:** Diego Costa is banned retrospectively for a running feud with Arsenal defenders Laurent Koscielny and Gabriel in Chelsea's 2-0 win. Arsene Wenger avoids censure afterwards for calling referee Mike



Jose Mourinho, who endured a miserable season prior to the sack Dean "weak and naive". Mourinho turns his frustrations to Wenger and the FA.

**September 29:** Chelsea lose 2-1 to Mourinho's old club Porto in the Champions League.

**October 3:** Following a fourth league defeat, 3-1 to Saints, Mourinho questions whether he will be sacked and subsequently receives the first vote of confidence in a manager in the 12 years of Roman Abramovich's ownership. He is, though, hit with a £50,000 fine and suspended one-match stadium ban for comments after the loss about referee Robert Madley, which, an independent panel judges, alleged bias.

**October 15:** The Portuguese maintains his attack on the FA, calls his fine a "disgrace" and says: "I'm happy that I don't have an electronic tag."

**October 17:** Mourinho rounds on star player Hazard after dropping him to the bench for the 2-0 win over Aston Villa and demands the Belgian improve his defensive work rate.

**October 24:** Chelsea lose again, 2-1 at West Ham, losing Nemanja Matic to a first-half red card and also having assistant first-team coach Silvano Louro sent to the stands. Mourinho does not emerge on the touchline for the second half, having also been sent off.

*continued on facing page*

# James Constable: S

**TOASTING his Eastleigh team's latest victory on the road recently, Chris Todd singled out James Constable for a special mention.**

The Spitfires' boss had just watched his gun striker bag both goals in a terrific close-fought victory at Macclesfield, when he called Constable the best striker in the National League, writes PAUL McNAMARA.

With the former Oxford United talisman also having been on target three days previously, making the crucial breakthrough in Eastleigh's precious FA Cup win at Stourbridge, Todd could be open to accusations of being tempted towards hyperbole.

Constable, though, is a born goal-getter, a man whose actions give credence to his manager's words.

Reflecting on the 31-year-old's match clinching effort at Moss Rose, Todd said: "The reaction to the rebound for the second goal was brilliant. Only James Constable does that."

That description perfectly sums up the Wiltshire-born man's prime asset.

Constable sniffs out chances like none of his divisional contemporaries. Rather unfairly, some of those opportunities that go begging can occasionally deflect from the vast numbers that Eastleigh's main man converts.

In that cup tie at Stourbridge, Constable's first-half involvement was largely restricted to chasing across the front-line, either hounding defenders, or setting off on selfless runs that weren't located by team mates.

When a ball broke loose close to goal after half-time, however, Constable reacted quickest, by some distance. There was nobody within two yards of the forward as he nudged it over the line.

These things don't happen by accident.

Constable worked like mad to become the player who would leave Oxford with 106 club goals to his name, an agonising one short of the U's all-time record.

Speaking to the Echo at the start of this year, Constable recalled his days a decade ago working in a women's underwear factory. He would finish an eight-hour shift at 2pm, before making his way to fulfil coaching duties at Cirencester Town.

All that before training in the evening with his club, Chippenham Town.

Regular Eastleigh watchers marvel at Constable's work ethic. Even when the team was coming under some fire from the terraces last term, for its perceived preference to hit the ball long, there was acknowledgement for the number 9's unstinting chasing and harrrying.

Against that was the overriding desire to see Constable do what he does best.

Richard Hill enticed Constable to



Predator - James Constable slides in to put Eastleigh ahead at Stourbridge in the recent FA Cup win.



James Constable's celebration after scoring in the FA Cup win at Stourbridge earlier this month.

the Silverlake Stadium from Oxford in the summer of 2014, the former Eastleigh boss taking advantage of the player's contractual wranglings at his home of six years.

Hill was after a player to provide his side with a cutting-edge, for their debut National League season.

A prolific League Two frontrunner, with all the tenacious qualities

demanding of an Eastleigh player, Constable's ability to find the back of the net was what would set him apart.

Despite taking a while to get going on the scoring front in Eastleigh blue, Constable's predatory instincts would inevitably come to the fore.

A sharply taken late equaliser at Forest Green three months into

his Silverlake career served as an example of the predatory penalty-box prowess that the man known as Beano could bring to the Spitfires' party.

A player for the big occasion, the striker scored in last season's FA Cup second-round defeat at Southport, before embarking on an especially prosperous festive season.

Constable struck a double at Tel-

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# Simply the best!



James Constable in action against former club Oxford United in a friendly.



James Constable goes for goal against Lincoln City.

ford United, then went one better in Eastleigh's last game of 2014, when he fired a hat-trick in a 5-1 demolition of Braintree.

On that day it was Hill, not a man given to dishing out cheap praise, who was asked to analyse the merits of his rampant forward:

"James Constable gets fouled, pushed and pulled with little or no reward. His work-rate off the ball

is incredible," said Eastleigh's then boss.

"Constable's finishes were clinical. He will miss as many as he scores, that is how he is, but people should recognise his overall contribution."

Yet it did take a while for people to cotton on to Constable's all-round attributes. His career stalled at Walsall following a move

from Chippenham in 2005, a switch that fulfilled the striker's lifetime dream to play professional football.

After 12 months at the Bescot Stadium, Constable moved back into non-league football, this time with Kidderminster Harriers.

He quickly rediscovered his scoring touch in Worcestershire, before ending up at Oxford, via Shrewsbury Town, in 2008. In his second

season at the Kassam Stadium Constable weighed in with 22 league goals – adding to the 23 he scored in his first campaign with the U's – as the club won promotion into the Football League.

Displaying his sense of occasion, once more, Constable scored in his team's decisive 2010 Wembley play-off final victory over York City.

Constable freely admits it was with a heavy heart that he cut his ties with Oxford last year. Nevertheless, he immediately threw himself into his new challenge, desperate to be part of another promotion winning team.

The ambition wasn't realised last time around, despite Constable's 18 league goals helping propel the Spitfires towards an ultimately fruitless play-off encounter with Grimsby.

Constable started this term as he meant to continue, scoring in each of his team's first four matches. His goals at Macclesfield this week were his 10th and 11th of this campaign, so far.

Tellingly, those 11 goals have directly contributed to 14 of Eastleigh's 43 points this season.

That is a statistic that demonstrates the burden on the man who is the main source of goals in any team. If a side is struggling, it is often the centre-forward who is first to carry the can.

Wayne Rooney at Manchester United and Arsenal's Olivier Giroud are just two of many high-profile strikers to come in for merciless flak the minute things go wrong for their respective teams.

And in his interview with this paper in January, Constable admitted that he isn't happy if he's not in the goals.

He said: "I'm one of those players who need to be scoring goals. You have a lot of forwards who contribute a lot with their set-ups and are quite happy scoring five or six (a season).

"I want to score as many goals as I can. As a forward it's important that you're scoring goals and taking pressure off the rest of your team."

It is his ability to do precisely that which persuaded Paolo Di Canio, then in charge at Swindon Town, to pursue Constable in 2012.

The Italian, a brilliant forward throughout a colourful playing career, offered a glittering appraisal of the player he was chasing from his bitter rivals: "He has pace, he is tall, he can score with both feet and his physical presence is massive," offered Di Canio.

Given that it was mercurial former Arsenal and England attacker Paul Merson who took Constable to Walsall this is a man with admirers in high places.

Most pertinently, right now, chief among them is Todd. Not afraid of rotating his strike-force, the Spitfires manager has kept Constable in his team ever since the forward made his return from suspension as a sub against Halifax in October.

## Timeline of Mourinho's dire season

from facing page

**October 26:** Mourinho charged with misconduct over his behaviour at West Ham.

**October 27:** Holders Chelsea are knocked out of the Capital One Cup after losing their fourth-round tie to Stoke on penalties.

**October 31:** Chelsea suffer yet another defeat as Liverpool are 3-1 winners at Stamford Bridge. The club's position on his future, publicly at least, is unchanged from the vote of confidence at the start of the month.

**November 2:** Press Association Sport learn legal papers will be served on Mourinho as part of separate but connected claims against him and against the club by Carneiro.

**November 2:** Mourinho is given a one-match stadium suspension with immediate effect and fined £40,000 after admitting an FA charge of misconduct over his behaviour at West Ham.

**November 6:** The FA releases its written reasons for Mourinho's ban, saying he called referee Jon Moss



Ex-Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho shows his frustrations "\*\*\*\*\* weak".

**November 7:** With Mourinho absent from the game due to his ban, Chelsea lose 1-0 at Stoke – the club's seventh league loss of the campaign.

**November 23:** It is announced that Chelsea made a loss of £23.1million in their Premier League-winning season.

**November 29:** Costa is dropped to the substitutes' bench for the 0-0 draw at Tottenham and throws his bib in Mourinho's direction when it becomes apparent he would not feature.

**December 5:** Blues suffer a shock 1-0 at home to Eddie Howe's Bournemouth. Substitute Glenn Murray was on the pitch for one minute 39 seconds before netting the Cherries' famous 82nd-minute winner.

**December 14:** Chelsea are beaten 2-1 at Leicester, putting the Foxes back top of the Premier League and leaving Mourinho's men – remarkably – one point above the relegation zone after 16 matches. Mourinho says after the game that his work was "betrayed" by his players, and admits all top-four hopes are "gone".

**December 17:** Sacked.



## The top flight team of the season so far

### PREMIER LEAGUE TEAM OF THE SEASON SO FAR (4-3-3)

#### GOALKEEPER

**David de Gea (Manchester United):** United have the best defensive record in the league and the form of the Spain international has been key to that.

#### DEFENDERS

**Hector Bellerin (Arsenal):** In his 14 league starts - he missed the 2-0 defeat to West Ham and 1-1 draw against Tottenham - Arsenal have conceded just seven goals.

**Scott Dann (Crystal Palace):** Much has been made of Palace's attacking prowess but in 16 matches they have conceded more than one just twice and Dann has played his part, while his goals in three games have helped the side earn seven points.

**Chris Smalling (Manchester United):** Another major factor in United's defensive superiority this season.

**Nacho Monreal (Arsenal):** The ultra-consistent Spaniard, Arsenal's other full-back, has played every minute of every league match so far and that regularity has brought stability.

#### MIDFIELDERS



**Jamie Vardy scored in 11 successive Premier League games**

**Riyad Mahrez (Leicester):** The Algeria international's brilliantly-taken goal in the win over Chelsea epitomised his talent but he has offered so much more in the Foxes' charge to the top of the table with 11 goals in 15 appearances.

**Danny Drinkwater (Leicester):** One of Leicester's unheralded heroes, the midfielder has pulled the strings so well manager Claudio Ranieri has tipped him for an England call up.

**Kevin de Bruyne (Manchester City):** His four league goals tell only part of the story as his work-rate and number of assists have made him an essential and influential part of Manuel Pellegrini's side.

#### STRIKERS

**Jamie Vardy (Leicester):** Fifteen goals in 16 appearances, including a new Premier League record of scoring in 11 consecutive matches, mean he is the hottest striker in the country.

**Romelu Lukaku (Everton):** After a slow start the Belgium international has exploded into a run of form which has seen him score in his last six matches to take his tally to 12.

**Odion Ighalo (Watford):** Another surprise package, no-one expected Watford to do so well this season let alone see the Nigerian reach double-figures before Christmas.

# Saints aiming for ra

## SAINTS victories against Arsenal used to be relatively commonplace - before the Arsene Wenger era.

But after beginning 2015 with a first league win against Arsenal in 12 seasons, Saints will be determined to end the year on home turf in similar fashion next week, writes **SIMON WALTER**.

Academy alumni Theo Walcott, Calum Chambers and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain are all set to return to St Mary's for what promises to be a veritable Christmas cracker on Boxing Day evening.

Arsenal are on the crest of a wave. After completing the Great Escape from their Champions League group with last week's 3-0 win away to Olympiakos, the Gunners are looking forward to a last-16 tie against Barcelona.

And as the nearest challengers to surprise Premier League leaders Leicester City, they will be determined to ensure Saints do not replicate their New Year's Day win.

If past meetings and the current form book are anything to go by, it will be a difficult evening for Ronald Koeman's men.

You have to go back to the Eighties for the last time Saints won successive matches against the Gunners.

But Christmas time often features memorable surprises...

These are Saints' five Premier League wins against Arsenal:

**SAINTS 2 ARSENAL 0 (January 1, 2015)**

Saints completed a second win in a season against Arsenal for the first time in 47 years, following their sensational 2-1 League Cup win at the Emirates two months earlier, which was their first win away against Arsenal since 1987.

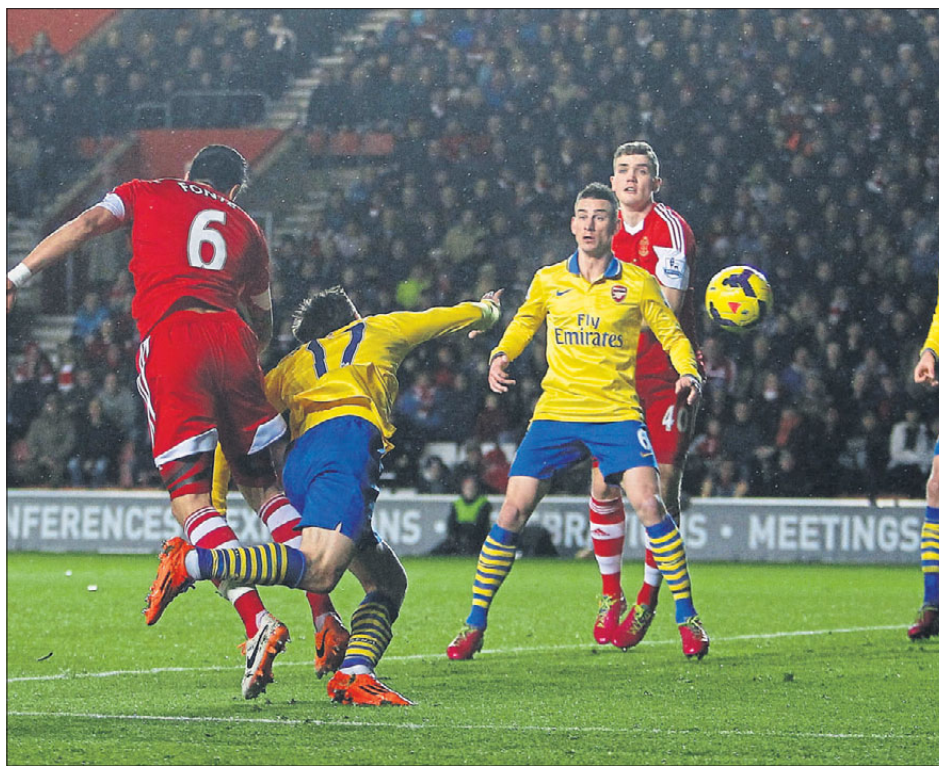
In April 1968, Ted Bates' side completed the league double against the Gunners twice in six days (2-0 at The Dell courtesy of a Ron Davies brace and 3-0 at Highbury by virtue of first Saints goals for Joe Kirkup and Mick Judd either side of a Terry Paine penalty).

On this occasion, a goal in each half from Sadio Mane and Dusan Tadic ensured Saints began 2015 in the top four, just a point behind third-placed Manchester United.

Mane gave Saints a 34th-minute lead with an audacious chip from the byline. He was too strong for Laurent Koscielny and after collecting James Ward-Prowse's pass curled in left-footed over the back peddling Wojciech Szczecny when the keeper mistakenly thought he could get to the ball before the Senegalese.

Wonderful work from Steven Davis, who collected Victor Wanyama's pass and crossed without breaking stride, led to Tadic capitalising on bad defending to stab in at the near post.

Saints: Forster, Gardos (Yoshida 71), Fonte, Alderweireld, Bertrand, Davis, Tadic (Long 85), Wanyama, Ward-Prowse, Mane (Reed 42), Pelle.



Jose Fonte (left) heads Saints into the lead against Arsenal at St Mary's in January 2014.



Dusan Tadic scores Saints' second goal in their win against Arsenal last January.

Arsenal: Szczesny, Debuchy (Akpom 84), Gibbs, Mertesacker, Koscielny, Chambers (Walcott 60), Rosicky, Oxlade-Chamberlain, Cazorla, Coquelin, Sanchez

**SAINTS 3 ARSENAL 2 (November 23, 2002)**

The 'Triple Antti' is still talked of in hushed tones when Saints fans

recall Niemi's three stunning saves in quick succession against Patrick Viera at the start of the second half. Saints were drawing 1-1 after James Beattie's 25-yard free-kick on the stroke of half-time had cancelled out Dennis Bergkamp's sweetly-struck half-volley ten min-

utes earlier.

Buoyed by Niemi's 51st-minute heroics, Saints won a penalty when Agustin Delgado (remember him??) was hauled down by Sol Campbell on the hour.

Beattie gave Saints the lead and in the 67th minute Delgado marked

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# re win over Wenger



Two-goal James Beattie lifts Fabrice Fernandes after striking home a penalty against Arsenal during Saints' St Mary's win in November 2002.



Marsden, Delap, Beattie, Delgado (Ormerod

Gaston Ramirez celebrates his leveller in Saints' 1-1 draw with Arsenal at St Mary's on New Year's Day 2013.

his first Premiership start by bundling in Fabrice Fernandes's free-kick to make it 3-1.

Robert Pires pulled a goal back after his header had been saved, but Saints survived a nervy last ten minutes.

Saints: Niemi, Dodd, Lundekvam, Bridge, M Svensson, Fernandes (Telfer 87), Oakley,

83).

Arsenal: Seaman, Luzhny, A Cole, Campbell (s/o 57), Cygan, Vieira, Ljungberg (Jeffers 72), Edu (Toure 61), Wiltord, Bergkamp (Pires 73), Henry

SAINTS 3 ARSENAL 2 (May 19, 2001)

No Saints game against Arsenal

comes close to the last game at The Dell for the sense of occasion.

It will always be remembered for Matt Le Tissier's wonderful sense of timing.

Le Tissier swept in the winning goal left-footed in the 89th minute after Hasan Kachloul had hit two second-half equalisers.

Ashley Cole gave Arsenal a 28th-minute lead. His initial shot was saved by Paul Jones but he made no mistake with the rebound.

Kachloul chipped in his first equaliser in the first minute of the second half.

Within ten minutes Fredrik Ljungberg had restored Arsenal's lead, following a fluid counter-attack involving Thierry Henry and Robert Pires.

But just past the hour Kachloul tapped in a second equaliser, when Alex Manninger flapped at a Garry Monk cross.

After an entertaining half-hour, Le Tissier provided a fairytale ending to the 103-year-old Dell amid unforgettable scenes.

Saints: Jones, Monk (El Khalef 74), Lundekvam, Bridge, Richards, Kachloul (Benali 81), Marsden, Pahars, Davies (Le Tissier 74) Tessem, Beattie.  
Arsenal: Manninger, Grimandi, Cole, Keown, Adams, Vieira, Pires (Upton 85), Parlour, Ljungberg (Edu 73), Henry, Bergkamp (Kanu 34)

SAINTS 1 ARSENAL 0 (November 19 1994)

This game was most notable for the selection of Bruce Grobbelaar in Saints' first game since the Zimbabwean was charged by the FA for bringing the game into disrepute after newspaper claims that he accepted cash to guarantee match results.

Grobbelaar denied the charges and the Daily Echo reported that he was "swept along on a tidal wave of emotion, to emerge triumphant from the toughest match of his life."

Jim Magilton gave Alan Ball's men victory with the only goal on the hour, latching on to a through ball from Jeff Kenna before clipping past David Seaman.

Six minutes later Paul Dickov missed a penalty for the Gunners.

Saints: Grobbelaar, Kenna, Benali, Ekelund, Hall, Heaney, Widdrington, Magilton, Maddison, Le Tissier, Dowie.  
Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Bould, Adams, Keown, Winterburn, McGoldrick (Carter 70), Selley, Schwarz, Campbell, Dickov.

SAINTS 2 ARSENAL 0 (December 5 1992)

A goal in each half from Neil Maddison and Iain Dowie gave Saints this win in the Premier League's first season.

Midfielder Maddison netted a perfect header in the 16th minute after Dowie had nodded back Franny Benali's cross.

Maddison turned provider for Dowie eight minutes into the second half, crossing for the striker who slid in at the far post.

Ian Wright missed an 85th-minute penalty before Saints celebrated their eighth win in 14 visits from the Gunners.

Saints: Flowers, Adams, Benali, Hall, Kenna, Monkou, Maddison, Cockerill (Groves 72), Dowie, Le Tissier (Banger 69), Hurlock.  
Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon (Jensen 25), Bould, Morrow, Adams, Hillier, Parlour, Merson, Campbell, Wright, Flatts (Limpar 69).

## Belgians and ball boys - a lethal brew!

CHELSEA manager Jose Mourinho branded the Leicester ball boys "a disgrace for the Premier League" after his side's 2-1 defeat at the King Power Stadium on Monday.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at some other ball boy incidents which have made the football headlines.

### HAZARD WARNING

Belgium international Eden Hazard was sent off and charged with violent conduct by the FA for kicking a ball boy in Chelsea's Capital One Cup semi-final defeat to Swansea in January 2013. Hazard lost patience when Charlie Morgan, at 17 possibly the world's oldest-ever ball boy, was slow to hand the ball back and lashed out at him with television replays indicating he had made contact with his boot.

### DE BRUYNE APOLOGY

What is it with Belgians and ball boys? Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne was caught swearing at one by the pitch-side microphones while playing for his former club Wolfsburg in February 2015. De Bruyne apologised to the lad in question.

### DO OR DIE

Sion striker Geoffrey Serey Die was given an eight-match suspension - the biggest-ever ban in Swiss football - when he slapped a Lausanne ball boy in



Manchester City's Kevin De Bruyne once had a ball boy problem

May 2012. Swiss media reported that Die believed the ball had been returned to play too slowly in his side's 1-0 defeat and video footage showed the Ivorian striding to the touchline before striking the young boy.

### BALL BOY SCORES

Yes, this really happened in a Brazilian FPF Cup fixture between Santacruzense and Atletico Sorocaba in 2008. After the ball went out for a goal kick, the ball boy put it in the net - and the referee then awards a goal. Check out the YouTube footage.

### GREEK BRAWL

Panionis midfielder Fernandes started a brawl on the pitch after pushing a PAOK ball boy in a 2007 match between the two clubs. Fernandes shoved the ball boy as he tried to get the ball back in play to take a corner. Bottles rained down on Fernandes from upset PAOK fans, which the ball boy tried to remove, before the home players intervened and chaos ensued.

### LEHMANN IN A FLAP

Jens Lehmann was never the most popular of players at Arsenal so there were plenty of sniggers when a ball boy got the better him in a Hannover v Stuttgart Bundesliga game. Lehmann was in a rush to retrieve the ball with Stuttgart losing, but the young lad threw the ball over his head to win cheers from the home crowd.





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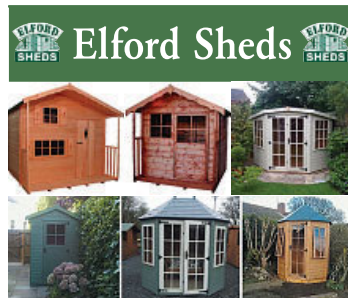
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An incident in an Eastleigh v Lincoln match

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# It's not all over for durable Micky yet

## HOWLING winds sweep across an open pitch.

The several spectators who have braved the adverse conditions to see a local derby unfold play a metaphorical game of 'spot the blade of grass' on a heavy and uneven pitch.

This is grassroots football.

The 18th tier of English football to be precise, *writes CAM MELLING.*

But for the 22 players on the pitch and the handful of substitutes on the side-line (silently cursing their gaffer), it is as important as the day's Premier League fixtures.

The match brings together a mixture of lads making their first foray into men's football alongside an older battalion on their last swansong.

For one man in particular, though, spending his Saturdays kicking a ball around a bitterly cold mud-bath has become second nature.

Braishfield Reserves defender Micky Dean has arguably more experience playing senior football than every other player on the pitch combined. Sitting in front of the back four, the 65-year-old veteran is tasked with guarding his side's defence against Michelmersham & Timsbury Reserves.

Ultimately, his side are well beaten by their youthful opponents, losing 8-0 in the Drew Smith Southampton League encounter, but it is just another chapter in the incredible story of possibly the country's oldest footballer.

Despite a few heavy losses this year, Braishfield are by far the league's whipping boys and have been unlucky to lose in a few of their games this year, with Dean playing a major part in making sure his side is competitive.

"Some players expect more of me than I can do on the day," says Dean, participating in his 52nd consecutive season of senior football.

During that time, he has played across seven different leagues ranging from Salisbury to Southampton to Bournemouth for more than 20 different teams, playing across the weekend from a Saturday morning to a Sunday afternoon.

It's true during the match that through balls are played in his direction which he cannot reach, but he has adapted his game impressively, rarely stepping out of place and always in position to make interceptions.

In recent times, Dean has often been deployed as a centre back and this game marks a rare exception of playing outside of the back four.

However, during his prime, he was often seen running



Veteran footballer Micky Dean

## Evergreen Dean still on the ball, aged 65

the channels in his preferred position of left midfield.

In fact, during his time of the left wing, Dean wasn't half bad. He played regionally for Wiltshire and also featured in the very competitive Hampshire League.

He even graced the hallowed turf of Wembley, albeit as a ball-boy for an FA Amateur Cup final in his formative years.

Dean's side, Braishfield Reserves, have had a tough start to their Southampton Junior 4 division campaign, losing their first nine games of the season.

However despite some hefty defeats, he refuses to bare any grudges.

"The best thing about being the oldest player on the pitch is the interaction with the opposition."

Indeed, he is actually one of the few players to have actually bagged a goal this season for his side – although it came in a 10-1 defeat. Playing competitively against players young enough

to be his grandchildren is not the former left-winger's only option, though.

The Southampton League also offers veterans football at over-35s and over-40s level.

"I tried it once," he replies in response to whether he has played in any of those divisions, "but I did not enjoy it."

Well, that's that then. Dean adds: "I will continue playing so long as there is a team who still wants me. That is fewer teams now, though."

And that is part of what makes grassroots football so great.

An eager 18-year-old keen to make his way through the leagues is as equally as valuable as an experienced pro like Dean, happy to play at any level in order for local sides to fulfil their fixtures.

Players from the Southampton League and beyond could do worse than taking inspiration from his career. His determination to carrying on playing is a credit to non-league footballers countrywide.

## ADVANCE FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Sunday, December 20

Barclays Premier League: Swansea v West Ham (1600), Watford v Liverpool (1330). Sky Bet Championship: Leeds v Preston. Reading v Blackburn. Sheff Wed v Wolves (1400). League One: Walsall v Port Vale.

Monday, December 21

Barclays Premier League: Arsenal v Man City (2000). EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Redditch v Kettering.

Tuesday, December 22

HAMPSHIRE FA SENIOR CUP Third round: Winchester City v Eastleigh. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Chesham v Cambridge City, Dorchester v Cirencester, Paulton Rovers v Chippenham (730), Poole Town v Hitchin, Stratford v Merthyr Town. Division One South & West: Didcot v Swindon Supermarine, Taunton v Banbury. PORTSMOUTH SENIOR CUP Moneyfields v Horndean.

Saturday, December 26

Barclays Premier League: Aston Villa v West Ham. Bournemouth v Crystal Palace. Chelsea v Watford. Liverpool v Leicester. Man City v Sunderland. Newcastle v Everton (1730). Southampton v Arsenal. Stoke v Man Utd (1245). Swansea v West Brom. Tottenham v Norwich. Sky Bet Championship: Blackburn v Middlesbrough. Brentford v Brighton (1300, Andy Sims covering). Bristol City v Charlton. Derby v Fulham. Huddersfield v Preston. Hull v Burnley. Ipswich v QPR. MK Dons v Cardiff. Rotherham v Bolton (Jonathan Veal covering). Sheff Wed v Birmingham. Wolves v Reading (1715). League One: Blackpool v Oldham. Bradford v Burton. Bury v Barnsley. Colchester v Southend. Coventry v Port Vale. Doncaster v Scunthorpe. Millwall v Walsall. Peterborough v Chesterfield. Rochdale v Crewe. Shrewsbury v Fleetwood. Swindon v Gillingham. Wigan v Sheff Utd. League Two: Accrington v Carlisle. AFC Wimbledon v Bristol Rovers. Barnet v Newport. Crawley v Stevenage. Dagenham & Redbridge v Cambridge (1300). Hartlepool v Notts County. Leyton Orient v Portsmouth. Luton v Wycombe. Morecambe v Mansfield. Oxford v Exeter. Plymouth v Yeovil. York v Northampton.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

(all 3pm) Aldershot v Woking. Altrincham v Chester. Barrow v Gateshead. Boreham Wood v Braintree. Bromley v Eastleigh. Guiseley v Grimsby. Kidderminster v Cheltenham. Lincoln v FC Halifax. Macclesfield v Tranmere. Torquay v Forest Green. Welling v Dover. Wrexham v Southport. VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Bath City v Truro. Bishops Stortford v St Albans. Chelmsford v Dartford. Eastbourne Borough v Whitehawk. Ebbsfleet v Concord Rangers. Gosport Borough v Havant & Waterlooville. Hayes & Yeading v Weston-super-Mare. Hemel Hempstead v Wealdstone. Margate v Maidstone. Oxford City v Maidenhead. Sutton v Basingstoke.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Premier Division: Bedworth v Leamington (3.00), Bideford v Paullon (3.00), Biggleswade v St Neots (3.00), Cambridge City v Histon (1.00), Chippenham v Hungerford (3.00), Dunstable v Hitchin (1.00), Frome v Poole Town (3.00), Kings Lynn v Kettering (3.00), Merthyr Town v Cirencester (3.00), Slough v Chesham (3.00), Stratford v Redditch (3.00), Weymouth v Dorchester (3.00). Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Winchester City (3.00), Bashley v Wimborne (3.00), Burnham v Marlow (1.00), Cinderford v Bishops Cleeve (1.00), Evesham v Banbury (3.00), Larkhall v Taunton (3.00), Mangotsfield v Yate (1.00), North Leigh v Didcot (3.00), Slimbridge v Shortwood (3.00), Tiverton v Bridgwater (3.00), Wantage v Swindon Supermarine (3.00).

Sunday, December 27

Sky Bet Championship: Nottm Forest v Leeds (1630).

Monday, December 28

Barclays Premier League: Arsenal v Bournemouth (1730). Crystal Palace v Swansea. Everton v Stoke. Norwich v Aston Villa. Watford v Tottenham. West Brom v Newcastle. West Ham v Southampton (1730). Sky Bet Championship: Birmingham v MK Dons. Bolton v Blackburn (1245). Burnley v Bristol City. Charlton v Wolves. Preston v Hull. QPR v Huddersfield. Reading v Brentford. Middlesbrough v Sheff Wed. League One: Barnsley v Blackpool. Burton v Swindon. Chesterfield v Coventry. Crewe v Shrewsbury. Fleetwood v Wigan. Gillingham v Colchester. Oldham v Doncaster. Port Vale v Bury. Scunthorpe v Rochdale. Sheff Utd v Bradford. Southend v Millwall (1300). Walsall v Peterborough. League Two: Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient. Cambridge v Barnet. Exeter v AFC Wimbledon. Mansfield v York. Newport v Plymouth. Northampton v Accrington. Notts County v Morecambe. Portsmouth v Luton. Stevenage v Dagenham & Redbridge. Wycombe v Crawley. Yeovil v Oxford.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

(3pm unless stated) Braintree v Welling.

Cheltenham v Torquay. Chester v Macclesfield. Dover v Bromley. Eastleigh v Aldershot. FC Halifax v Wrexham. Forest Green v Kidderminster. Gateshead v Guiseley. Grimsby Town v Lincoln (12.30 BT Sport). Southport v Barrow. Tranmere v Altrincham. Woking v Boreham Wood. VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Basingstoke v Hayes & Yeading. Concord v Bishops Stortford. Dartford v Margate. Havant & Waterlooville v Bath City. Maidenhead v Hemel Hempstead. Maidstone v Eastbourne Borough. St Albans v Chelmsford. Wealdstone v Sutton. Weston-super-Mare v Oxford City. Whitehawk v Ebbsfleet.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Salisbury v Bemerton HH (2.00). PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE Senior Division: Clanfield v Hamble Club. Fleetlands v Paulsgrove.

Tuesday, December 29

Barclays Premier League: Leicester v Man City (1945). Sky Bet Championship: Brighton v Ipswich. Cardiff v Nottm Forest. Fulham v Rotherham. Leeds v Derby. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Biggleswade v Cambridge City. SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Blackfield & Langley v Fawley AFC. Fareham Town v AFC Portchester. Hamworthy Utd v Bournemouth Poppies. Hordean v Moneyfields. Newport IoW v Cowes Sports. Whitchurch v Andover Town. Division One: Alton v Andover NS. Laverstock & Ford v Downton. New Milton v Christchurch. Portland v Ringwood. Romsey v AFC Stoneham. Tadley Calvea v Fleet Spurs. Totton & Eling v Hythe & Dibden. US Portsmouth v East Cowes Vics.

Wednesday, December 30

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Lymington Town. Sholing v Folland Sports. Verwood v Team Solent. Division One: Amesbury v Pewsey Vale.

Friday, January 1

Sky Bet Championship: Brighton v Wolves (1500). QPR v Hull (1715). VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE Forest Green Rovers v Torquay (5.30, BT Sport).

Saturday, January 2

Barclays Premier League: Arsenal v Newcastle. Leicester v Bournemouth. Man Utd v Swansea. Norwich v Southampton. Sunderland v Aston Villa. Watford v Man City (1730). West Brom v Stoke. West Ham v Liverpool (1245). Sky Bet Championship: Birmingham v Brentford. Bolton v Huddersfield. Burnley v Ipswich. Cardiff v Blackburn. Charlton v Nottm Forest. Fulham v Sheff Wed. Leeds v MK Dons. Middlesbrough v Derby. Preston v Rotherham. Reading v Bristol City. League One: Barnsley v Millwall. Burton v Blackpool. Chesterfield v Shrewsbury. Crewe v Coventry. Fleetwood v Bury. Gillingham v Bradford. Oldham v Colchester. Port Vale v Swindon. Scunthorpe v Wigan. Sheff Utd v Peterborough. Southend v Colchester. Walsall v Rochdale. League Two: Bristol Rovers v Luton. Cambridge v AFC Wimbledon. Carlisle v Plymouth. Exeter v Dagenham & Redbridge. Mansfield v Accrington. Newport v Hartlepool. Northampton v Barnet. Notts County v Oxford. Portsmouth v Crawley. Stevenage v Leyton Orient. Wycombe v Morecambe. Yeovil v York.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

Braintree v Boreham Wood. Cheltenham v Kidderminster. Chester v Altrincham. Dover v Welling. Eastleigh v Bromley. FC Halifax v Lincoln. Gateshead v Barrow. Grimsby v Guiseley. Southport v Wrexham. Tranmere v Macclesfield. Woking v Aldershot. VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE SOUTH Basingstoke v Sutton. Concord v Ebbsfleet. Dartford v Chelmsford. Havant & Waterlooville v Gosport Borough. Maidenhead v Oxford City. Maidstone v Margate. St Albans v Bishops Stortford. Truro v Bath City. Wealdstone v Hemel Hempstead. Weston-super-Mare v Hayes & Yeading. Whitehawk v Eastbourne Borough. EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Chesham v Dunstable. Cirencester v Chippenham. Dorchester v Bideford. Histon v Biggleswade. Hitchin v Cambridge City. Hungerford v Slough. Kettering v Bedworth. Leamington v Stratford. Paulton Rovers v Frome. Poole Town v Weymouth. Redditch v Merthyr Town. St Neots v Kings Lynn. Division One South & West: Banbury v Wantage. Bridgwater v Slimbridge. Didcot v Burnham. Marlow v North Leigh. Shortwood v Cinderford. Swindon Supermarine v Mangotsfield. Taunton v Tiverton. Wimborne v AFC Totton. Winchester City v Bashley. Yate v Larkhall.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Alesford v AFC Portchester. Andover Town v Team Solent. Bemerton HH v Brockenhurst. Fawley AFC v Verwood. Folland Sports v Blackfield & Langley. Hordean v Newport IoW. Lymington Town v Bournemouth Poppies. Moneyfields v Sholing. Whitchurch v Hamworthy Utd.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v Laverstock & Ford. Amesbury v Totton & Eling. Andover NS v Romsey. Christchurch v Portland. Downton v US Portsmouth. Fleet Spurs v New Milton. Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calvea. Pewsey v East Cowes. Ringwood v Alton Town.



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## Gray double secures spot in semi-finals

### SUNDAY FOOTBALL SPOTLIGHT

AFC Waterside are through to the semi-finals of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior A Cup.

Nathan Gray scored twice as they won 3-2 at Chamberlayne Athletic.

Michael Baker was also on target as Waterside led 2-0 at half-time, with Joe Connery and Scott Fitzsimmons replying for the hosts.

Hedge End Athletic progressed to the fourth round of the Hampshire FA Sunday Senior Cup with a 2-1 home win over fellow City of Southampton Sunday League side Testlands.

Shaun Ridout and Joe Williams netted, with all the goals coming in the first half.

Winsor Sports stormed through to the semi-finals of the Southampton FA Sunday Junior B Cup.

Marcus Buchan and Alex Clark both scored twice as they caned visiting FC Woolston 6-0, with Sammy O'Reilly and Dan Plumley also on target.

Courtney Campbell struck twice as Itchen Saints reached the third round of the AJ Miller Trophy with a 4-1 home win over Yacht Tavern.

Ryan Lambert and Lee Bore also scored, with Carl Squibb replying.

Boyatt Wood Wanderers defeated



Two-goal Courtney Campbell

Bitterne RBL 3-1 with Dan Harket-Burgess, Michael Halton and Sam Drummond on target. Jacob Adderley replied.

Anthony House (2) and Tom Millar gave AFC West End a 3-2 win at Cricketers Arms (Fair Oak), who replied through John Cole and Joe Moore.

Ben Dawkins, Brett Hall and Akbar Singh scored as RS Nomansland triumphed 3-2 at Landguard Rovers. Ewan Thompson and Tunde Akintolu replied.

## Dozen goals

David Wrezel hit a hat-trick as AFC Spitfire recorded a remarkable 8-4 win at Sholing Monks in the second round of the Charlie Godden Trophy.

Joe Harket-Burgess (2), Reece Badger, Matthew Coulthard and Neil Philpotts also scored, with Kev Thorn (2), Steve Gulliver and Simon Cocks replying.

First-half goals from Mark Walter and Ian Attrill gave AFC Velmore a 2-1 win over Curbridge in the second round of the DR Ryder Trophy. James Pitre replied.

# 'I'm unbelievable' -

### TOP SPORTING QUOTES OF 2015

"I can't explain how it feels. It's an absolute dream" - Wales manager Chris Coleman after guiding his side to Euro 2016, their first major tournament since 1958.

"I wouldn't like to comment on that. We may have rehydration issues" - Northern Ireland Michael O'Neill manager hints that his players may have enjoyed a drink or two when asked how they celebrated their Euro 2016 qualification.

"Yes, why wouldn't he be? He didn't have the baby. Unless he's breastfeeding he should be all right" - Republic of Ireland assistant manager Roy Keane expects record scorer Robbie Keane to be available to face Germany despite the arrival of his second son.

"I'm unbelievable inside the pitch" - Cristiano Ronaldo, amid the publicity surrounding the release of a film about his career, leaves people in no doubt how highly he rates himself.

"I'm aware there has been intense media speculation surrounding my future in the last 24 hours and I want to set the record straight. I'm not leaving. I'm staying at the football club and I can't wait for the start of the season and captaining this great football club" - Aston Villa captain Fabian Delph categorically denies he will be joining Manchester City. He kept his word for just six days.

"This has been the toughest decision of my life and one which both me and my family have agonised over for a good deal of time" - Liverpool great Steven Gerrard announces he is to leave Anfield and end a 27-year association with the Reds.

"I wasn't happy with my medical staff because even if you are a medical doctor or secretary on the bench, you have to understand the game. If you go to the pitch to assist a player, then you must be sure that a player has a serious problem. I was sure that Eden didn't have a serious problem. He had a knock and was very tired" - Sparking a row that overshadowed Chelsea's start to the 2015-16 season, manager Jose Mourinho criticises club medics Eva Carneiro and Jon Fearn for entering the field to treat an apparently injured player.

"The first captain is Wayne Rooney and the second captain is Michael Carrick. Last year the third captain was Mr Mike Smalling" - Manchester United boss Louis van Gaal - not for the only time - gets defender Chris Smalling's



Leicester City's Jamie Vardy celebrates scoring yet another goal



Ben Stokes' catch brings a memorable hands-to-mouth reaction from Stuart Broad on a remarkable Ashes morning

name wrong.

"If you don't understand that question then I think you are an ostrich - your head must be in the sand. Is your head in the sand?" - Nigel Pearson takes exception to a question asked to him by

a reporter in a Leicester press conference.

"He is definitely not signing. He's not signing for £700,000, £800,000, £900,000 a week. He is not signing" - Raheem Sterling's agent Aidy Ward makes clear his client has

no intention of staying at Liverpool. He later joined Manchester City for £49million.

"Sad how i cant say exactly how the club has treated me but i can officially say i will never play Jeremy Peace" - Striker Saido Berahino

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# quotes of the year



Sorry was the hardest word for England rugby head coach Stuart Lancaster after his country's World Cup exit.



Tiger Woods saw the funny side after carding a round of 80.

takes to Twitter to hit out at West Brom and their chairman Jeremy Peace after his proposed move to Tottenham collapses on deadline day.

"If we close Sunderland - if we put a China Wall around the city - it would be fantastic" - Gus Poyet

hits out at criticism of his Sunderland team from the press after they are dumped out of the FA Cup by giant-killers Bradford.

"Everything I'm touching is going in. Long may that continue" - Leicester's Jamie Vardy enjoys a

golden spell that saw him score in a Premier League record 11 consecutive games.

"Winner winner chicken dinner" - Unheralded Stuart Bingham doesn't seem quite sure what to say and comes out with this bizarre comment after upsetting

the odds to win snooker's World Championship.

"The bright side is at least I kicked Rickie's butt today" - Tiger Woods at least sees the funny side after shooting a 10-over-par 80 in the first round at the US Open. Playing partner Rickie Fowler shot 81.

"Total rupture of left ATFL and associated joint capsule damage in a soccer kickabout with friends" - In an abrupt posting on his Instagram account, with accompanying picture, Rory McIlroy announces he has suffered ankle ligament damage playing football just over a week before he was due to defend his Open title.

"I'm just gutted, gutted for all the fans and everyone at home. I'm sorry we let everyone down" - England head coach Stuart Lancaster apologises after the host nation are dumped out of their own World Cup at the group stage.

"Mike may be a bit upset and that's fine. What did he say? That I missed my mum? Who doesn't miss their mum?" - Sam Burgess hits back at criticism from Bath coach Mike Ford after quitting rugby union in the wake of England's World Cup failure to return to rugby league with South Sydney Rabbitohs.

"It's not sunk in yet, but I'll reflect on it in a few weeks when I'm sat on a sun lounger," - Captain Kevin Sinfield cherishes the perfect ending to his glittering rugby league career as Leeds Rhinos complete the treble with Super League Grand Final victory.

"Time to remove every item of clothing and run through the streets of Glasgow" - Andy Murray is overjoyed after team-mate Jamie Ward helps get Great Britain off to a flying start in their Davis Cup first-round tie against the United States. It was the start of a run that led to victory in the whole tournament.

"It's been a perfect day for us. I never dreamt I'd be able to get eight wickets in a spell. My previous best-ever bowling was seven for 12 against Kimbolton School Under-15s" - Stuart Broad reflects on his career-best eight for 15 after Australia were skittled for 60 at Trent Bridge, putting England in sight of Ashes series victory.

"I believe a woman's best place is in the kitchen and on her back" - When Tyson Fury exploded into mainstream conscience with his stunning heavyweight world title win over Wladimir Klitschko, so did a number of the outspoken boxer's controversial comments.

## Portman hits hat-trick in River cruise

LEE Portman struck a hat-trick as AFC Riverside stormed to an 8-2 win at Test Valley Spartans in Junior Division 1 of the City of Southampton Sunday League.

Ted Aplin, Rob Crook, Andrew Dance, Tom Jenkins and Lawrence Etheridge also netted for a Riverside side who bagged four goals in each half.

AFC Dorchester drew 3-3 at Marchwood Rangers in Junior Division 2, with Joseph Clist, Aaron Heskins and Jordan Smith on target.

Matt Petty, Jay Petty and Nick Young replied for Rangers, who trailed 2-1 at half-time.

Luke Richards and Chris Pye both struck twice as Bitterne Ducks trounced Whiteheart United 7-2.

Wayne O'Dell, Michael Thomas and Toby Withey also scored for a Ducks side who only led 1-0 at the break. Greg Parker and Chris Palmer replied in a game well refereed by Mike Thomas.

Leslie Sibanda, Chris Box and Gift Ngubane netted as Royale Marine defeated Portside 3-1, Daniel Runnalls replying.

Damien Teal grabbed two goals as Fawley RBL Reserves stormed to a 6-0 triumph at Forest Home in Junior Division 4.

Jake Voller, Craig Batchelor, Shaun Auger and Tom Dolland also netted.



Hat-trick hero Lee Portman

Dan Brooks (2) and Ryan Dennis were among the goals as Hedge End City beat Otter Sunday 4-2, Shane Yeates and Ollie Burrows replying.

Steve Robinson led Bridge Manor's goal burst in their 8-2 slaying of Itchen Hawks in Junior Division 5.

Matty Camfield (2), Keiran Walsh, Liam Fielder and Shah Bani-Sadr also scored, with James Brewer and Nick England replying.

Dan Orman's brace helped Abbotswood beat JSC 2-1.

## Portswood in goal-filled win

Portswood United Reserves led Unity 4-0 at half-time, yet in the end triumphed 5-3.

Cameron Roach and Hayden Lamb both converted spot-kicks, with Shane Weaver, Chris Astridge and a second from Roach also on target.

Mert Iltemis and Tom Gilham (2) replied for Unity.

James Parsons (2) and Adam Hague scored as Sporting Compass drew 3-3 at home with St Minions.

Karl Palmer, Pete Kerr and an own goal replied.



## Can Wenger and co stay the distance?

ARSENAL swept past Aston Villa 2-0 last Sunday to climb to the Premier League's summit.

Here, the Sports Pink examines the key question marks around the Gunners' title challenge.

**Can Arsene Wenger continue to ride out the worrying injury glut?**

Arsenal will hope that a quick return to full fitness after hamstring trouble for Alexis Sanchez can start to spell better news on the injury front.

While Danny Welbeck and Jack Wilshere will still not be featuring soon, Mikel Arteta could be another back in action shortly.

The Boxing Day trip to St Mary's, though, could come too early for the Spaniard.

Santi Cazorla and Tomas Rosicky are also still sidelined, underscoring the strain on Arsenal's squad.

**Can the Premier League be won without a top-class holding midfielder?**

Wenger's reluctance or inability to sign a first-rate midfield linchpin continues to concern pundits and fans alike.

While the likes of Francis Coquelin can offer adequate cover, Arsenal still



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger

crave a successor to Patrick Vieira.

Wenger has admitted being an admirer of Saints midfielder Victor Wanyama, but insists he won't be making any efforts to sign him in next month's transfer window.

Add an extra layer of steel to some eye-pleasing possession football, and Wenger's men could be well set.

**Do Arsenal have the fire power to go the distance?**

Demanding Mesut Ozil and Olivier Giroud maintain their current form across an entire season is a tall order.

Arsenal will need both men fit and in something nearing top form for the Gunners to stay the Premier League title course however. Ozil currently tops the European-wide assist charts having laid on 13 goals for Arsenal so far this term.

Striker Giroud adds a direct edge to Arsenal's fleet-footed passing play, with his 14 goals in all competitions so far crucial to his side's progress.

Both men are bound to lag through either injury or fatigue across the campaign, leaving Wenger needing to plug those gaps shrewdly if Arsenal are to maintain their title fight.

# Such a different sto

**NOW and again, as our top clubs swim around in obscene levels of wealth, it is worth recalling a different era.**

A more innocent era, writes *SIMON CARTER*.

An era where there was no football on television.

Seriously, no football on television.

At all.

As I write, in December 2015, the Premier League's current £3 billion television deal is entering its final months.

It will be replaced next summer with a phenomenal, inflation-busting, austerity-shredding £5 billion deal.

Sky have stumped up over £4 billion of that, to show 126 games over three years – averaging over £11m per game.

BT Sport have shelled out £960m, to show 42 games over the same three-year period – around £7.6m per game.

Youngsters now have grown up in an era where you can watch top flight English football on Saturday lunchtimes, Saturday tea-times, Sunday afternoons and Monday nights.

As from this season, you can add Friday nights to that list.

In addition, Champions League and Europa League games are available to watch on a variety of stations.

Some weeks you can watch live games every day.

This time thirty years ago, you couldn't watch a single game.

That sounds unthinkable to anybody who has grown up with wall-to-wall Premier League football, but the 1985/86 season began with not a single kick accessible to arm-chair viewers.

For over four months the sport was off our screens and even when it returned in the new year, only six top-flight matches were shown live before the season's end – a figure that coach potatoes with twin satellite subscriptions cannot even begin to fathom.

The English football landscape was very different 30 years ago.

With the horrors of Bradford and Heysel still fresh in the mind, the Football League had witnessed the lowest total opening-day attendances in 40 years. And the football authorities feared television might have a detrimental impact.

Sir Philip Carter, the then chairman of the champions Everton and a member of the League's television committee, has said: "There was an underlying concern with all the chairmen that TV would reduce gates and affect football negatively. There was very little money in it. They were saying American football and motor racing had more exposure than football."

The League had rejected an offer of £19m – yes, nineteen million – over four years and negotiations had reached an impasse over the



Watching football from behind the fences - Saints at Chelsea in September 1985.



Goal! Saints score against Manchester City at The Dell in 1985/86

split between live matches and recorded highlights, with broadcasters wanting more of the former and the clubs more of the latter.

Commentator Martin Tyler, who was then working for ITV, said: "I remember at the time people were saying live football will kill the

game. In fact, it's done just the opposite. Football didn't know the television industry so well and I think it was giving itself a bit of thinking time."

So for the first time in 21 years, TV cameras were absent on the opening day.

The 1985-86 campaign was a period of soul-searching for the national game.

The post-Heysel ban was in place, with the one-off Screen Sport Super Cup introduced for the six European qualifiers – including Saints – and the Full Members' Cup



# ry 30 years ago ...



Top flight football 1985/86 style - swathes of empty terracing at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge.



Goal! Danny Wallace about to net for Saints against QPR at The Dell in 1985/86.

established for the remaining clubs in the top two tiers.

Talk of a breakaway Super League had begun and by December plans were in place to reduce the 22-team top flight and introduce play-offs.

Fortunately, December 1985 - 30 years ago this month - also brought

belated agreement over a TV deal, the Football League accepting £1.3m for nine First Division and League Cup games.

Carter said: "The money we got was peanuts but it was a question of getting back into the swing. It was a stupid situation. I think it actually brought home to people that

there was something wrong with not having our national sport on television."

With a separate deal agreed for the FA Cup, the blackout ended in early January with a third-round tie between Charlton Athletic and West Ham.

In the end, 13 domestic League

and cup games went out live - together with England v Scotland and the European Cup final.

That was it. Just thirteen games. You can watch that many in the space of a few weeks nowadays.

The European Cup final was the only game from the continent shown on British television in 1985/86.

West Ham won that first match back on the box against Charlton with Tony Cottee getting the only goal.

Cottee has since said: "Imagine nowadays if you said to a kid, 'You can't watch the Champions' League and you can't watch goals from the Premier League - there are no live games and no highlights'.

"It was an incredible situation and it shows how far football has come - to think we've gone from no football on television to having the most watched league in the world."

While nobody could watch live football on television in the first half of 1985/86, dwindling numbers were actually watching games too.

In the top flight, a dismal story was replicated almost everywhere you looked.

Of the 22 First Division clubs, all but four saw their crowds go down in 1985/86.

Arsenal and Tottenham saw their average attendance slashed by 7,861 and 8,073 respectively.

Sheffield Wednesday's average crowd dipped by over 4,500 while Saints, Aston Villa and Watford lost over 3,000 supporters per game.

Looking back, some of the attendances recorded in the first post-Heysel and post-Bradford season seem truly bizarre.

We now live in a time of near capacity crowds most weeks in the Premier League.

The story could not be any more different to the mid-1980s.

Back in 1985/86 Arsenal, who now draw in 60,000 for almost every home game at The Emirates, could only muster 14,863 for West Bromwich Albion's visit.

They could only manage 15,098 for a game against Nottingham Forest.

The Gunners would get a bigger crowd in 2015 if they fielded their reserves against a League 2 club in the FA Cup or League Cup.

Newcastle are another club whose home games are now watched by the best part of 50,000.

Back in 1985/86, though, they could only bring in 16,637 to watch Coventry.

Chelsea, now one of the biggest clubs in Europe, were watched by just 12,372 when they welcomed Leicester to Stamford Bridge.

Now we come to Tottenham, who like Chelsea regularly pull in over 35,000 to home games.

Not in 1985/86, they did.

In fact, when Birmingham visited, they couldn't even manage a five-figure attendance.

Just 9,359 turned up.  
*continued on next page*

## Is there any hope at all for Aston Villa?

ASTON Villa are marooned at the bottom of the Barclays Premier League table after a 2-0 defeat to Arsenal.

They are eight points from safety and have not won in the league since the opening day of the season.

Remi Garde replaced Tim Sherwood in November but is yet to win. The Sports Illustrated looks at Villa's seemingly impossible task for survival.

### SUMMER SIGNINGS

The club signed 13 new players in the summer and spent a reported £50million. No-one doubted they did not need an overhaul after four barren years but the strategy was misguided.

They needed quality and experience to replace Christian Benteke, Ron Vlaar and Fabian Delph but only Joleon Lescott and Micah Richards had serious top-flight know-how and even the former England duo have slumped this season.

Liverpool loanee Tiago Ilori has not played while Adama Traore, who signed for 12m euros from Barcelona, is yet to start in the league.

With Villa cut adrift at the bottom, who will want to join them in January?

### LACK OF INVESTMENT

Villa have been sleep walking to relegation for the past five years. They



Aston Villa manager Remi Garde.

have battled against the drop and survived by the skin of their teeth since owner Randy Lerner decided to curb the spending. The recognition they needed investment was what forced them into their ill-advised business in the summer.

### NO GOALS

Villa are the joint lowest scorers in the top-flight with Stoke having netted just 13 times.

Gestede, Ayew and Scott Sinclair have scored eight league goals between them this season while Gabby Agbonlahor has not netted since March.

When Villa needed goals to survive last season they had a reinvigorated Benteke to turn to but now there is nothing to suggest their current strikers can bail them out.

### MISSING LEADERSHIP

Wantaway owner Lerner's decision to sell in 2014 - and failure so far - has left a void at the top. Lerner said if he could not find a new owner he would step down as chairman but he remains in the position while staying in America.

Chief executive Tom Fox is only in his second year in the role while sporting director Hendrik Altmann and director of scouting and recruitment Paddy Riley have justifiably come under the spotlight.



## Thirty years on, and so much change

from previous page

At Tottenham.

To watch a top flight game.

West Bromwich Albion's visit attracted a few more through the turnstiles, but not many more.

Only 10,841 bothered to turn up that day, to watch one of the day's so called 'big five' clubs.

Though London's top clubs were suffering, it was nothing compared to the dismal picture in the top flight regarding Midlands football.

Birmingham went down that season, so you would not expect their crowds to be fantastic.

But you would still expect a top flight club to pull in more than the 5,833 Birmingham did for a game against Saints

Or the 6,234 who visited St Andrews to watch a game against Nottingham Forest, a team from barely 50 miles away.

Neighbouring West Bromwich Albion fared little better.

Here are just three of their top flight attendances in 1985/86 – 8,831 v Coventry, 7,901 v Forest and 6,201 v Sheffield Wednesday.

Leicester's attendances were also dismal, attracting only 7,290 to watch Ipswich and 7,237 for the Midlands derby with West Brom.

Coventry were equally dire, managing just 7,499 v Watford and 8,721 v Chelsea.

As for Aston Villa, the biggest club in the region and European Cup winners just five seasons previously?

They pulled in only 8,456 for a game against Saints and 10,584 for Arsenal's visit.

I have no idea what other leisure activities thousands of Midlandsers were getting up to on Saturday afternoons in 1985 and 1986. One thing is for sure, though – watching professional football was well down their list of priorities.

That, then, was the state of the top flight English game in the mid 1980s. Pretty dire, wasn't it?

That was the miserable end result of years of hooliganism in and around our own grounds.

The end result of watching Valley Parade, Bradford, burn on our television screens.

The end result of watching 56 people die because facilities were left to become antiquated and a fire risk.

The end result of watching thirty nine Italian football fans crushed to death at the Heysel Stadium, because of the actions of supposed English football fans.

We also saw that on our television screens, and for many it was the final straw.

In the eyes of many, those who continued to go and watch professional football were considered social pariahs.

How could we continue to go and watch games in antiquated grounds, our views often obscured by the hated fences, and with hooliganism still a blight on Pele's beautiful game?

We went because we still cared for our clubs.

But even as we went in 1985/86, no-one could ever have guessed the direction the top teams in English football could take.

No-one would have guessed the money that would eventually pour into the top flight clubs' bank accounts. Not when crowds were falling up and down the country, and no-one could watch a single kick on television.

# Strolling down festi

**THE Christmas period is always a great time for football fans.**

Games might no longer be played on Christmas Day itself, but there is something special about watching the beautiful game over the festive period.

Here, the Sports Pink looks back at Saints' Boxing Day matches since the start of the 1980s.

**1980:** Saints twice hit back from two goals down in a thrilling 4-4 draw at White Hart Lane.

Steve Archibald and Garry Brooke put the hosts ahead before Graham Baker and Charlie George levelled before half time.

Spurs once again established a two-goal lead through Brooke and Garth Crooks. But Steve Moran netted from an acute

angle before volleying home Mick Channon's corner three minutes from time.

**1981:** Saints fans had to wait until December 28 for their first helping of post-Christmas football.

It was worth the wait as they ran out 3-1 winners against Swansea City at the Dell.

Dave Armstrong put Saints ahead inside three minutes from a free kick. After the Swans levelled through Ante Rajkovic, Kevin Keegan struck twice after the break.

**1982:** Danny Wallace plundered a 74th minute winner on December 27 to give Saints victory at Brighton's Goldstone

Ground. **1983:** Danny Wallace was again Saints' Boxing Day hero, scoring the only goal at West Ham. David Armstrong scored

the only goal at The Dell against Watford 24 hours later.

**1984:** Luther Blissett struck twice as Watford won 2-1 at The Dell on Boxing Day. Alan Curtis replied.

**1985:** David Leworthy scored twice as Saints collapsed to a dismal 3-0 Boxing Day loss at Oxford United.

John Aldridge missed an early penalty for the U's but added the hosts' third just after the hour mark.

**1986:** An 87th minute winner from John Bumstead gave Chelsea a 2-1 success at The Dell on Boxing Day.

Colin Clarke had given Saints a half-time lead, with Joe McLaughlin levelling.

**1987:** First half goals from Kevin Moore and Colin Clarke helped Saints beat visiting Tottenham 2-1 on Boxing Day at The Dell, Chris Fairclough replying.

**1988:** Saints hit back from 0-2 down to claim a Boxing Day point at home to Coventry.

David Phillips and Gary Bannister fired the Sky Blues into the lead, Rod Wallace heading in a Jimmy Case cross

on the hour mark.

Injury time drama followed as Kevin Moore headed in Matt Le Tissier's corner, leading to an altercation between



Rickie Lambert converts Saints' penalty at Craven Cottage on Boxing Day 2012.



Guly scores his second goal against Crystal Palace at St Mary's on Boxing Day 2011.

Bannister and Russell Osman which ended with both sent off.

**1989:** Rod Wallace scored the only goal as defending league champions Arsenal were beaten at The Dell on Boxing Day.

**1990:** An 82nd minute winner from Matt Le Tissier completed Saints' come from behind victory against Manchester City at The Dell.

City took the lead on 35 minutes through Niall Quinn, with Barry Horne's solitary goal of the sea-

son coming four minutes later.

**1991:** Saints came from 0-2 down to draw 3-3 at eventual champions Leeds United on Boxing Day.

Leeds were in control when Steve Hodge scored twice in three minutes. Five minutes after the break, Iain Dowie pulled a goal back, but

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# Five memory lanes



Jay Rodriguez scores his second goal at Cardiff City on Boxing Day 2013.



Ryan Bertrand celebrates his goal at Selhurst Park against Crystal Palace on Boxing Day 2014.

Gary Speed re-established the hosts' two-goal advantage.

Alan Shearer struck from 25 yards before Dowie grabbed his second in injury time.

1992: Eddie Newton struck an 88th minute leveller to deny Saints a Boxing Day win at Stamford Bridge. Iain Dowie had opened the

scoring after just three minutes.

1993: Frankie Bennett scored his only Saints goal as Saints claimed a great 3-1 Dell win over Chelsea on December 27.

Tommy Widdrington scored his only goal of the season to put Saints ahead after three minutes. Chelsea levelled through Mark

Stein before Iain Dowie made it 2-1 in the 65th minute.

1994: David Hughes made his full debut as Saints lost 3-2 at The Dell to 10-man Wimbledon.

It seemed to be going swimmingly when Jason Dodd put a 20 yarder through Hans Segers' legs on ten minutes.

Dean Holdsworth and Mick Harford had the Dons in front on 37 minutes, before Matt Le Tissier slammed in a 20-yard effort before half-time.

Andy Thorn got himself sent off in the 57th minute for Wimbledon but Dean Holdsworth won the game from the

penalty spot after Neil Heaney had fouled Efan Ekoku.

1995: A goalless Boxing Day stalemate at The Dell against Tottenham.

1996: Saints were behind after just 54 seconds on Boxing Day at White Hart Lane, Steffen Iversen on target. The Norwegian made matters worse on the half hour mark when he scored again.

Matt Le Tissier chested down and converted Alan Neilson's cross nine minutes later.

But Danish international Alan Neilson completed the scoring.

1997: Paul Jones saved a 79th minute Itzik Zohar penalty to give Saints a 1-1 draw at Crystal Palace on Boxing Day.

Matt Oakley put Saints ahead only for ex-Saint Neil Shipperley to level.

1998: Tore André Flo and Gus Poyet gave Chelsea a 2-0 Boxing Day win at The Dell.

1999: It was almost a case of déjà vu as Tore Andre Flo's double gave Chelsea a Boxing Day win at Saints for the second season running. Kevin Davies set up a grandstand finish when he flicked home a loose ball from a Matt Le Tissier free-kick.

2000

Saints had to wait until December 27 for their first festive fixture, the Sky cameras on hand to see James Beattie and Kevin Davies give Glenn Hoddle's men a 2-0 Dell win against

Tottenham.

2001: A then St Mary's record crowd of 31,719 crammed into the stadium on Boxing Day to see James Beattie again hit the target against Tottenham.

And this time his goal was enough to give Saints victory against a side managed by Glenn Hoddle, making his first return to Saints since walking out on the club the previous month.

2002: Saints and Chelsea played out a goalless stalemate on Boxing Day at Stamford Bridge.

Two days later, Jo Tessem bundled home a last minute winner as Saints defeated Sunderland 2-1 at St Mary's.

James Beattie had opened the scoring in the 73rd minute, with Tore Andre Flo levelling four minutes later.

2003: Saints entered their Boxing Day game with Fulham at QPR's Loftus Road sitting fourth. They slipped to a 2-0 loss, though, and within two months had seen boss Gordon Strachan leave.

*continued on page 32*

## Finn's highs and lows with England

STEVE FINN has been added to England's Test squad for the tour of South Africa after recovering from a foot injury.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the highs and lows of his career.

### HIGH - TEST DEBUT

Finn made a surprise England bow at 20 after being called up as injury cover for the 2010 Test series in Bangladesh. He took four wickets in two matches on the tour.

### HIGH - HOME SUCCESS

Retained for the return series with Bangladesh, Finn took a maiden five-wicket haul in the second innings of the first Test at Lord's.

### LOW - ASHES AXE

As lows go, becoming an Ashes winner at the first attempt, and away from home, isn't so bad. But Finn was dropped after three Tests despite being the highest wicket-taker in the series at that point. It was a first sign that England were concerned about a perceived lack of control.

### HIGH - RECORD BREAKER

Injury to James Anderson led to a recall for a single Test against Sri Lanka in May. During the match he took four wickets to become the youngest Englishman to reach 50 Test scalps having just turned 22.



Highs and lows - England bowler Steve Finn

### LOW - KNEE PROBLEM

Having developed a habit of breaking the stumps at the non-striker's end with his knee, Finn found himself at the centre of a debate about the laws. A new no-ball law was created by the ICC as a result.

### LOW - REDESIGNED RUN-UP FLOPS

England encouraged Finn to work on a new, shorter run-up in 2013 but the effect was far from helpful. He appeared to suffer from a drop in pace and rhythm.

### LOW - ASHES ANGST

Although selected for the opening match of the 2013 Ashes, England were already twitchy about the paceman's lack of control. He travelled to Australia for the return rubber but suffered horribly, losing his run-up almost entirely before being sent home by one-day coach Ashley Giles having become "not selectable".

### HIGH - COMEBACK COMPLETE

Finn was finally handed a Test recall after two years out. It was the Ashes again, but this time he claimed six wickets in the second innings. He went on to take his 100th in the final Test at the Oval.

### LOW - FOOT INJURY

After three successful Tests, Finn's momentum was stalled. A bone stress injury to left foot saw him ruled out of the Pakistan series in the UAE.



# LOOK BACK AT THE 2015 SPORTING YEAR

## Root is paying the price for cricket's satellite 'exile'

**WHILE athletics and football battled alleged cheating and corruption, New Zealand ruled the rugby roost and Andy Murray sealed Britain's Davis Cup triumph.**

Here, the Sports Pink charts the major sporting lessons from 2015, a year packed with almost as much scandal as glory.

**Sport's corruption runs far deeper than anyone ever imagined:**

Athletics continues to plumb the depths of a "deeply rooted culture of cheating" exposed against Russia by the World Anti Doping Agency. Football may spend years unravelling its own scandal, after seven FIFA executives were arrested in Zurich in May. The FBI indicted 14 current and former FIFA officials on charges of "rampant, systemic and deep-rooted" corruption.

**Not even a Davis Cup triumph could quell Andy Murray's frustrations with structural shortcomings in British tennis.**

Murray should have been basking in a British glory unmatched in at least two generations after dragging Team GB to their first Davis Cup title in 79 years in November. Instead the 28-year-old found himself cataloguing the perceived failings of the Lawn Tennis Association. An extraordinary verbal volley amid an equally stunning triumph.

**The All Blacks boast rugby union's greatest dynasty.**

New Zealand's unrivalled rugby dominance was not so much laid bare by their unprecedented second-straight World Cup title but by the manner of the victory march. Utility back Beauden Barrett's qualities underscore their quest for a squad full of rounded rugby athletes. Naturally a 10 Barrett found himself deployed at wing from the bench. Few if any playmakers elsewhere in the world could lay claim to such adaptability.

**Boxing still needs a heavyweight superstar of true talent to rein-vigorate the sport.**

Whatever Tyson Fury's natural-born ringcraft, England's latest heavyweight champion will be hard-pressed to unite boxing. The self-styled Gypsy King pulled off the heist of the century to depose long-term champion Wladimir Klitschko in Germany in November. The 27-year-old will never have the chance to prove himself a true great unless he can take on and topple rivals at the peak of their powers.

**Experience is everything when it comes to success in top-level coaching.**

Stuart Lancaster's Rugby World Cup failure boiled down to a lack of prior Test coaching experience. England's knee-jerk reaction has been to install the man with the most packed



Joe Root's profile has suffered from not having England Test matches on free-to-air television



Sam Burgess' switch from rugby league to rugby union should be a lesson for both codes.

CV to rebuild shattered confidence. Before the World Cup few would have hailed Japan boss Eddie Jones as among the globe's top coaches. But at 55, Jones is suddenly the toast of the Test arena once more.

**No free-to-air Test cricket leaves the sport struggling for national heroes and role models.**

Joe Root was man of the series as England won back the Ashes this summer. The 24-year-old is the world's number-one Test batsman and racked up an England record of 2,131 runs in all formats for the cal-

endar year. Root was not shortlisted for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.

**Rugby's two codes are poles apart and must be viewed as different sports not just varying disciplines.**

The Sam Burgess experiment surely confirms the obvious: that rugby union and league are incompatible, and that we should not worry. England and Bath pulled out all the stops and more to entice league star Burgess across to union. Perhaps the unmitigated disaster that followed will

allow union to set aside its fixation with league.

**Just when he should be hitting his peak, Wayne Rooney's powers are on the slide.**

Perhaps 14 years of top-level football is all we can expect of Premier League talents in the age of ultra professionalism. At the age of 30, Rooney has broken Sir Bobby Charlton's all-time England goal-scoring record this year. But despite that history-making, the form and abilities that set Rooney apart seem to have deserted him.

## Festivities & football for Saints

from page 29

**2004:** Another goalless Boxing Day stalemate for Saints, this time against Charlton at St Mary's.

**2005:** A miserable start for new Saints boss George Burley as Watford strolled to a 3-0 Boxing Day win at Vicarage Road.

Darius Henderson and Clarke Carlisle struck in the first half before Tomasz Hajto put through his own goal.

**2006:** Kenwyne Jones was sent off as Saints were held 1-1 at St Mary's on Boxing Day by Crystal Palace.

Despite Jones seeing red just before the half hour mark, Saints went ahead two minutes into the second period through Chris Baird. Jobi McAnuff equalised shortly after.

**2007:** Saints' Boxing Day game was against Colchester this year, and the teams played out a 1-1 draw at Layer Road.

Jhon Viáfara gave Saints a half-time lead, with Clive Platt levelling for the Essex hosts in the 47th minute.

**2008:** Saints went down 2-0 at Plymouth on Boxing Day, goals coming from Rory Fallon and Luke Summerfield (penalty).

**2009:** Over 30,000 packed into St Mary's on Boxing Day for a third division game with Exeter City.

Lloyd James and Neal Trotman put Alan Pardew's side in command, with the visitors' Troy Archibald-Henville seeing red four minutes before the break.

Matt Taylor pulled the 10-man Grecians back into contention, before Papa Waigo settled any nerves two minutes from time.

**2010:** After Saints' Boxing Day trip to Charlton was postponed due to a frozen pitch, Nigel Adkins' men caned Huddersfield 4-1 at St Mary's two days later. Lee Novak put the Terriers ahead, but Saints roared back through Rickie Lambert (28 mins), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain (32), Radhi Jaidi (51) and Richard Chaplow (72).

**2011:** The enigmatic figure that was Guly scored both goals – one in each half – as Saints defeated Crystal Palace 2-0 at St Mary's on Boxing Day.

**2012:** Rickie Lambert rescued a point for Saints at Fulham's Craven Cottage with an 85th minute penalty leveller.

Dimitar Berbatov had put the hosts into an eighth-minute lead.

**2013:** Saints romped to a 3-0 Premier League success at Cardiff on Boxing Day. All the goals came in the first 27 minutes., from Jay Rodriguez (2) and Rickie Lambert.

**2014:** Another away Boxing Day win, this time a 3-1 success at Crystal Palace with Sadio Mane, Ryan Bertrand and Toby Alderweireld scoring.



# Bumper sporting year ahead

**NEXT year promises to be a bumper year for sport, with the Olympic Games in Rio, Euro 2016 in France and the Ryder Cup among the highlights to look forward to.**

Here, the Sports Pink selects 10 sports stars to look out for in 2016.

## Dele Alli – football

The midfielder began 2015 playing League One football for MK Dons; he ended it as a key man for Tottenham, and an England international – perhaps as the most likely candidate to break into Roy Hodgson's starting XI at Euro 2016. There is little questioning Alli's talent or composure, demonstrated perfectly when he scored his first England goal in the recent victory against France.

## Dina Asher-Smith – athletics

In becoming the fastest teenager in history by running the 200 metres in 22.07 seconds in the World Championships final, in which she finished fifth, Asher-Smith highlighted her undoubted potential.

## Henry Slade – rugby union

The talented back made his England debut against France in the build-up to the World Cup and made enough of an impression to reach Stuart Lancaster's final squad. He continued to demonstrate his progress with Exeter – right up until he recently suffered a broken leg and ankle damage that will keep him out for four months, ruling him out of the RBS 6 Nations. But Slade's ability to play at 10, 12 and 13, coupled with his vision, skill with the boot, and handling, makes him sure to be a stalwart of the England team by the time the of the next World Cup in 2019.

## Giles Scott – sailing

The 28-year-old is undefeated since April 2013, and, at the Finn Gold Cup in New Zealand in November, won his third world title. He narrowly missed out on a place at London 2012 to Sir Ben Ainslie, but is on course to win gold next year.

## Jolyon Palmer – Formula One

The 24-year-old will make his Formula One debut in 2016 and will drive for Lotus. He is a former GP2 champion, and was the reserve driver for Lotus in 2015. Crucially, he comes with significant financial backing but is also promising behind the wheel, as he demonstrated when his GP2 title made him the first British winner since Lewis Hamilton in 2006.

## Callum Smith – boxing

The youngest of four fighting brothers from Liverpool's Smith family, Callum established himself as Britain's most promising super-middleweight – presently the UK's glamour division – with a devastating first-round knock-out of Rocky Fielding. He is ready to progress to world level.

## Matt Fitzpatrick – golf

Once the world's number one amateur and the 2013 US Amateur champion, Fitzpatrick, who won his European Tour card via the qualifying school in November 2014, is in contention to be 2015's Rookie of the Year. He impressively finished 12th in the Race to Dubai, won the British Masters at Woburn, and secured more top-three finishes than anyone else on the European Tour.



Great Britain's Dina Asher-Smith



Tottenham midfielder Dele Alli



Callum Smith



England's Henry Slade

## Kyle Edmund – tennis

Britain's number three and perhaps most promising young player, Edmund impressed in the 2015 French Open before withdrawing, owing to injury. He also made his Davis Cup debut in Britain's victorious final.

## Daniel Bell-Drummond – cricket

England's pursuit of a long-term opener to partner Alastair Cook could yet end with Daniel Bell-Drummond. He has yet to represent England in any format in 2015, but has been included in the performance programme.

## Amber Hill – shooting

The 2015 European Games champion. The 18-year-old beat world number one Diana Bacosi to secure her victory in Baku in June and followed that with gold at the ISSF Shotgun World Cup final in Cyprus.

## Rome the home for Ryder Cup

GOLF will be the latest sport to stage a major event in the city of Rome when the Italian capital hosts the Ryder Cup in 2022.

The Olympics, European Cup soccer finals and Six Nations contests have all taken place along the banks of the River Tiber in a European city with a wealth of history.

Here, the Sports Pink profiles three other major sporting moments that occurred in Rome.

### BOXING – OLYMPICS, 1960

Muhammad Ali, one of the greatest heavyweight champions ever – and indeed one of the most important figures in American culture – experienced career highlights in Zaire and the Philippines, but prior to that one of his finest hours occurred in Rome.

Ali, then Cassius Clay, won light heavyweight gold at the 1960 Olympics.

### ATHLETICS – WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, 1987

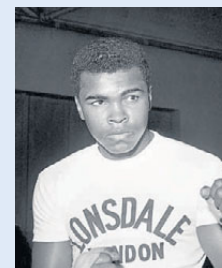
The Ben Johnson-Carl Lewis rivalry in the 100 metres may have reached fever-pitch 13 months later at the Seoul Olympics but it captured a global audience's attention when Johnson pipped him in the final of the 1987 World Championships and set a new world record.

That time of 9.83 seconds was broken by the Canadian himself, who went 0.04 seconds faster in Seoul, only to have both times and both golds scrubbed from the record books when he was disqualified for doping.

### FOOTBALL – EUROPEAN CUP, 1977

The Stadio Olimpico has staged four European Cup finals and Liverpool have won two of their five trophies in the Eternal City, in 1977 and in 1984.

The latter success, the Reds' fourth, was a penalty shoot-out victory over hometown club Roma but it was the 1977 triumph, a 3-1 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach in Kevin Keegan's last game for the club, that kick-started Liverpool's rule of European football's premier club competition.



Muhammad Ali





## Hythe Ferry Christmas Timetable

Please note the following revisions to our normal timetable for Christmas and New Year period 2015-2016.

For further information visit: [www.hytheferry.co.uk](http://www.hytheferry.co.uk) or call the Hythe Ferry Office on 02380 840722

### Dec - Jan 2015-16

**24th Dec**  
First Ferry H/P, 06:10  
(Then every 30mins)  
Last Ferry T/Q, 19:30

**25th Dec**  
**No Service**

**26th Dec**  
**No Service**

**27th Dec**  
**Normal Service**

**28th Dec**  
**Normal Service**

**29th Dec**  
**Normal Service**

**30th Dec**  
**Normal Service**

**31st Dec**  
First Ferry H/P, 06:10  
(Then every 30mins)  
Last Ferry T/Q, 19:30

**1st Jan**  
First Ferry H/P, 10:40  
(Then every 30mins)  
Last Ferry T/Q, 18:00

**2nd Jan**  
**Normal Service**

Information correct at the time of print.  
Maybe subject to change without prior notice.



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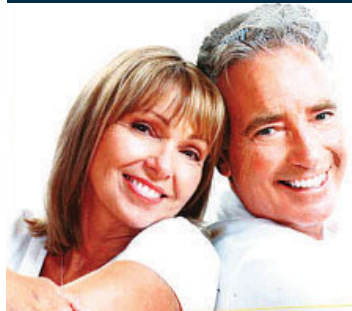
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# Women's football

## Exeter put Saints to sword

**SOUTHAMPTON Saints sent a depleted team to Exeter City for their FA Women's Premier South West Division game – and were beaten 3-0.**

Biggest miss was always likely to be talisman and skipper Krystal Whyte, but with midfielders Perkins and Davis unable to travel the mountain to climb was always going to be high.

Sitting second in the South West Division, Exeter smelt blood from the outset.

After just two minutes midfielder Vicky Barter opened the scoring before prolific Helen Kukor doubled the advantage on 20 minutes.

Southampton needed to dig in if they were to prevent a hammering and stem the flow of goals, and they looked a different side in the second half.

Without Whyte up front, the burden for goals bore heavy on Jess Lewry.

Despite her best efforts, none troubled the scorer.

Exeter made a change by bringing Waddon on for Currie.

Worse was to come for the Reds as Amelia Southgate got caught accidentally from a corner by a flaying elbow and with suspected concussion was swapped with 16-year old debutant Buckingham.

To compound matters, Lewry twisted an ankle and was forced off, with Saints down to ten players having only named one sub.

### Broken wrist

In addition, the tough Aimee Burrage played most of the second period with a broken wrist!

The game was far from over and a guilt edged chance fell to Becki Bath to make the game a little more interesting, but she shot straight at the keeper.

Kukor completed the scoring with her 11th goal of the season.

### Southampton Saints Reserves 2 QPR Reserves 0

Saints claimed their first league win of the season, and their first clean sheet as well.

They were forced to defend well early on, with centre halves Parkinson and Senter making some great tackles and Isobel Glover anticipating where the ball was going to end up.

Momentum gradually shifted towards Southampton, and top scorer Elle Pearce went close just before half-time against the fourth-placed Rangers.

It only took two minutes after the restart for Kelly Holmes to net her first goal of the season.

Assisted by Tiff Eley, looking comfortable in the number 10 role, Holmes did well to react to the cross coming from the left wing.

Both Parkinson and Curtis hacked away clearances from corners, and Peake was called upon in goal.

More pace was needed in attack, so Megan Chapman came on to replace Belinda Villa Rodriguez, who had put in a great shift in the thankless holding role alongside captain Kate Early.

This change moved Eley back into a defensive position, Olivia Jones play-



Southampton Ladies Reserves



Southampton Saints' girls Under-12s

ing in the hole, with Chapman as the out and out striker. Immediately the game became more expansive.

The second goal came when the visiting keeper was penalised for handling the ball outside her penalty area, and Elle Pearce stepped up to fire a low free kick into the corner with 15 minutes remaining.

Megan Chapman, Kate Early, Livvy Jones, Siena White, Tiff Eley, Kelly Holmes all had chances to add to the score line.

Bailey Kelly became the third U16 to make her debut in women's football, coming on at the end for Nikki Curtis, getting stuck in and looking very keen. Manager Will Wilson said:

"The future is bright. It feels great to get this first league win, but we shall not celebrate for too long.

"This should have happened a lot sooner.

"We want goals, clean sheets, and points to become normal."

In the Hampshire Women's League Division One there was a major upset when Rushmoor turned over second placed AFC Boscombe.

Up to this point in the season they looked like real title contenders in a straight fight with Warsash Wasps.

BTC lost to a revitalised Alton and Winchester Flyers were held to a thrilling 3-3 draw, meaning Wasps have been afforded breathing space

without kicking a ball.

Division Two saw Southampton Women Reserves continue their revival with a 4-2 win at Bursledon.

Chamberlayne didn't field a side so a home walkover was awarded to bottom placed QK Southampton in the Southampton FA Cup.

Division 3 was a bad day for the two Winchester outfits.

Flyers A side lost 4-2 to Sholing and Winchester City were thumped 7-0 by AFC Bournemouth Reserves.

The second tier of the Southern Women's Region League saw leaders Chesham regain their composure and sneak a win over in-form Team Solent.

## Draw is a great spectacle

IN the Winchester & District girls U15 League, St Francis Rangers and Crofton put on a magnificent spectacle to draw 2-2.

The only winner here was the Saints' U14 team after the second and third place sides might consider it as points dropped when they had an opportunity to squeeze the gap on the leaders and everyone's hot favourites to be crowned champions.

In the U14 Winchester Girls 'League West, Southampton Saints U13s won 1-0 at Wyvern.

Saints' keeper Emily Gardiner pulled off some great saves from close range and was the manager's Player of the Match.

The only goal came in the 18th minute when Ella Hughdie picked up the ball just outside Wyvern's penalty area and fired in a shot which took a slight deflection on its way in.

Saints are now second, below Boscombe but with a game in hand.

The Winchester U13 league had a much fuller programme

Emma Simpson struck seven times as St Francis stroled to an 11-0 victory to Alton. Sophie Jerome netted the other four.

Warsash Wasps' Whites' Sophie Moore scored all her side's goals in a 3-3 draw against Worthies' side.

Leaders Southampton U12 cemented their claim on the U13 title after a 9-0 win in the mud against Havant.

Ella Shergill put in a strong performance at right back, and Nicole Ryder and Kaylee Buckingham completed an excellent back line, limiting Widbrook to very few chances which 'keeper Lillie Hansford dealt with competently.

Midfield worked very hard in the energy-sapping muddy conditions, and players were subbed roll on / roll off frequently to maintain fresh. Up front, Sydney Whymark was clinical with her finishing.

Warsash Wasps Yellow beat St Francis Rovers U13 7-1 with eye-catching goals from Davis, Wilkinson, and Alice Wilson. Sarah Dalton replied.

In the U11 league, Winchester moved six points clear after a 6-2 victory against nearest rivals Southampton Saints. St Francis claimed a memorable first league win of the season with a Libby Salmon goal.

In the U10 league, Winchester beat Southampton Saints. Widbrook remain top after Gardner, Rodrigues and Scutt gave them a 3-0 victory over Andover New Street.

● Southampton Saints' Girls and Ladies' FC are looking to recruit an U11 team manager. Applicants must have a minimum level 1 coaching. CVs to Rachel Murray (club secretary) at [rachel.murray@crookhorn.hants.sch.uk](mailto:rachel.murray@crookhorn.hants.sch.uk)



# Hampshire Colleges football spotlight

## Itchen have everything to play for at halfway stage

**ITCHEN** have reached the halfway point of the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges season with everything to play for, both at county and at national level.

Champions for the past seven seasons, Itchen trail season-long leaders Peter Symonds by seven points with two matches in hand, writes Mike Vimpany.

In the British Colleges Cup, their reward for a thumping 17-0 win over Cheltenham & Stroud last week is a home tie with Reigate at Middle Road on January 13.

Itchen will fancy their chances of winning this lop-sided national competition, which Brockenhurst won without breaking much sweat last season, but they face a potentially far trickier path if they are to win the Hampshire Peter Munro Cup.

They face a difficult second round away day at Brockenhurst sometime next month and, if they win that, have drawn Peter Symonds in the semi's.

On the other side of the PMC draw, Farnborough will be hot favourites to beat Queen Mary's College.

Peter Symonds have already beaten Itchen twice in the league this season and James Taylor's teenagers will need a helping hand from at least one of the other colleges if their stranglehold in the HCL title is to extend to an amazing eighth successive year.

PSC would have fancied another win themselves in midweek but, while goal happy Itchen were putting nine past Andover, the Winchester youngsters had their scheduled match against basement side South Downs at Farlington waterlogged off.

Itchen made hay, with Liam Attrill and Jack Wilson each scoring twice, and Jack Burrows, Harry Harris, Sam Steel, Braydon Douglas one each, plus an own goal.

Barton Peveril's visit to Farnborough was called off.

● Gosport & Fareham are the lone local standard bearers after Southampton Boys were knocked out of the English Schools FA Under-15 PlayStation Trophy.

While little Gosport, one of the country's smallest associations, were thrashing South London, Southampton – one of the largest – tumbled to a 2-1 defeat by Bristol & South Gloucestershire.

Harry Preston was the hat-trick hero of Gosport's 5-1 romp.

He hit the winner in the opening round victory over ESFA Cup holders Aldershot & Farnborough and hit the target against on the wind-swept Bay House Cocked Hat Playing Fields.

A Jack Van Der Lugt double, coupled with a strike by Preston, gave G & F a 3-1 half-time lead, which Preston improved with a second half



Itchen College. Standing (from left): Liam Attrill, Matthew Hubbard, Keenan New, Sam Steel, Jordan Brooks, Ellis Roy,



Brockenhurst College students Dominic Panesar-Dower, left, and Harvey Slade.

brace which completed his hat-trick. Gosport's reward is a New Year home tie with North Kent when a quarter-final spot is up for grabs.

● TWO Brockenhurst College footballers have been selected to represent Great Britain Colleges.

Harvey Slade and Dominic Panesar-Dower secured their spots alongside 16 other elite young footballers from across the country.

They will now attend a training camp at Manchester City's training ground before playing two warm-up matches in the UK ahead of an international tournament in Italy.

Head of the football academy, Tom Prodomo, said: "I'm really proud to have two Brock students out of the 18 in the final squad – it's an excellent achievement."

"We will support them in any way possible."

Slade, from Bournemouth, currently plays as a midfielder for Christchurch Youth. The former Ballard School pupil is studying a Level 2 BTEC Diploma in Sport.

Panesar-Dower, from Bournemouth, currently plays as a midfielder for Poole Town.

The former Bournemouth Collegiate School pupil is studying for AS geography, psychology and physical education.

## Town boss hopes for Macey stay

NEW Wimborne Town boss Simon Browne is close to naming a permanent assistant – but insists he is desperate for interim No2 John Macey to remain at Cuthbury.

The vastly experienced Macey has worked alongside Browne since he took the helm at the end of November.

And although Browne hopes to reel in a new right-hand man soon, he is hugely keen to keep Macey at the Southern One South & West club.

"I may have an assistant manager coming in in the next week or so," said Browne.

"Since I've got here I've been working with John Macey and he has been fantastic, a real asset to the club.

"Regardless of whether I get someone in, I want John to remain because his knowledge of football in this area is second to none and I want to tap into that.

"I realised during my previous spells as manager that you need as many people helping you as possible, whether it be with coaching or talking to players. "The more the merrier in that respect.

"I'm hoping John will still help out with matchday stuff, training and that kind of thing.

### Let slip

"What he knows about other sides is really useful, so long may it continue."

After three straight defeats, Wimborne banked the first point of Browne's reign with a 2-2 home draw against in-form Taunton Town on Tuesday.

It could easily have been an even better result for the Magpies, but they let slip a two-goal lead.

"My overall feeling at the end was one of relief that we had a point," said Browne.

"Having said that, at 2-0 up at half-time the game was there for the taking.

"Carl Preston had a great chance to make it 3-0 early in the second half and, had that gone in, I think people would be talking about the first win rather than the first point, but it wasn't to be."

● Got a football story for us? Email words and pictures to [echosport@dailyecho.co.uk](mailto:echosport@dailyecho.co.uk)



Simon Browne



# SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

## Barclays Premier League

<b>Chelsea</b> .....3	<b>Sunderland</b> .....1
Ivanovic 5	Borini 53
Pedro 13	
Oscar 50 pen	
HT 2-0	Att 41,562
<b>Everton</b> .....2	<b>Leicester</b> .....3
Lukaku 32	Mahrez 27
Mirallas 89	Okazaki 69
HT 1-1	
<b>Man Utd</b> .....1	<b>Norwich</b> .....2
Martial 66	Jerome 38
HT 0-0	Tettey 54
<b>Newcastle</b> .....L	<b>A. Villa</b> .....L
HT L-L	
<b>SAINTS</b> .....0	<b>Tottenham Hotspur</b> .....2
	Kane 40
HT 0-2	All 43
<b>Stoke</b> .....1	<b>Crystal P</b> .....2
Kirkit 76 pen	Wickham 45 pen
HT 0-1	Lee 88
<b>W.B.A.</b> .....1	<b>AFC Bournemouth</b> .....2
McGaughey 79	Smith 52
HT 0-0	Daniels 87 pen
	Att 26,127

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leicester	17	5	2	1	16	13	6	3	0	21	11	38	
Arsenal	16	4	2	1	11	5	6	1	2	18	8	33	
Man City	16	7	0	2	25	11	3	2	2	7	6	32	
Tottenham	17	4	4	1	15	7	3	4	1	13	7	29	
Man Utd	16	3	3	1	10	3	4	2	3	12	11	29	
Crystal P	17	4	1	4	12	9	5	1	2	11	7	29	
Watford	16	3	2	3	6	6	4	2	2	12	10	25	
West Ham	16	3	4	2	12	4	4	2	2	13	10	24	
Liverpool	16	3	3	2	10	11	3	3	0	8	9	24	
Everton	17	3	3	3	19	15	2	5	1	12	9	23	
Stoke	17	3	1	4	8	9	3	4	2	6	7	23	
<b>SAINTS</b>	17	2	4	13	13	2	4	2	8	9	21		
W.B.A.	17	2	2	5	11	16	3	3	2	6	7	20	
Bournemouth	17	2	3	3	10	13	3	1	5	12	19		
Chelsea	17	4	1	4	13	12	1	2	5	15	18		
Norwich	17	2	3	3	9	10	2	2	5	11	19		
Newcastle	16	2	3	3	13	12	2	1	5	5	19		
Swansea	16	2	3	3	8	12	1	2	5	7	12		
Sunderland	17	2	2	4	9	9	1	1	7	9	22		
A. Villa	16	0	2	6	5	12	1	1	6	8	18		

## SkyBet Championship

<b>Bolton</b> .....2	<b>Fulham</b> .....2
Clough 61,74	Garbutt 28
HT 0-1	McCormack 85
<b>Brentford</b> .....4	<b>Huddersfield</b> .....2
Canos 5	Lolley 46
Vibe 21	Dempsey 90
Judge 31,55 pen	
HT 3-0	Att 10,262
<b>Brighton</b> .....0	<b>Middlesbro</b> .....3
	Garcia 4
HT 0-2	Adomah 44
<b>Bristol C</b> .....1	<b>Q.P.R.</b> .....1
Wilbraham 81	Hallett 56
HT 0-0	Att 15,754
<b>Burnley</b> .....4	<b>Charlton</b> .....0
Artfield 44,53	
Gray 55	
Vokes 78	
<b>Ipswich</b> .....0	<b>Derby City</b> .....1
HT 1-0	Att 15,697
HT 0-1	
<b>Nottm For</b> .....2	<b>M K Dons</b> .....1
Olivera 2	Murphy 81
Mendes 16	
HT 2-0	Att 19,975
<b>Rotherham</b> .....2	<b>Hull</b> .....0
Frecklington 28 pen	
Newell 57	
HT 1-0	Att 10,355

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Middlesbro	22	8	2	1	21	8	6	4	1	12	5	44	
Derby City	22	6	4	1	21	8	3	8	0	16	13	43	
Brighton	22	8	2	1	15	10	3	4	3	12	10	41	
Hull	22	8	2	1	19	6	9	6	2	9	9	38	
Burnley	22	7	2	2	21	11	6	2	3	18	17	34	
Ipswich	22	3	5	3	13	12	5	4	2	17	10	33	
Birmingham	22	4	2	5	10	13	2	5	4	10	13	33	
Cardiff	22	6	4	1	17	10	3	2	6	8	15	29	
Brentford	22	6	1	4	17	16	3	4	3	11	11	28	
Sheff Wed	21	5	4	1	15	9	2	5	4	13	17	30	
Q.P.R.	22	4	6	1	19	13	3	2	6	8	15	29	
Blackburn	21	3	6	2	11	7	3	4	3	11	11	28	
Nottm For	22	5	3	3	15	10	2	4	5	7	11	28	
Reading	21	4	4	2	13	7	3	2	6	14	18	27	
Leeds Utd	21	2	3	5	7	12	4	5	2	14	12	26	
Preston	21	2	6	3	8	9	3	4	3	9	8	25	
Wolves	21	2	5	4	12	14	4	2	4	15	24	21	
Fulham	22	3	4	4	19	20	2	5	4	17	19	24	
Huddersfield	22	3	3	5	13	14	2	3	6	11	20	21	
Bristol C	22	4	5	12	19	19	2	4	5	9	19	20	
M K Dons	22	4	1	6	11	13	1	3	7	17	19	18	
Rotherham	22	3	2	6	15	20	2	1	8	9	18	18	
Charlton	22	3	4	4	13	18	1	2	8	6	20	18	
Bolton	22	1	8	2	11	12	0	3	8	7	21	14	

## SkyBet League One

<b>Barnsley</b> .....0	<b>Wigan</b> .....2
	Kellett 18
HT 0-1	Wildschut 86
<b>Blackpool</b> .....2	<b>Peterboro</b> .....0
Cullen 3	
Potts 31	
HT 2-0	Att 6,204
<b>Burton Albion</b> .....3	<b>Doncaster</b> .....3
Butcher 18,61	Williams 4
Duffy 89	Kearney 70
HT 1-1	Tyson 83 pen
	Att 4,103

## Chesterfield

HT 0-0	
<b>Coventry</b> .....1	
Martin 49	
HT 0-0	
<b>Crewe</b> .....1	
Lowe 5	
HT 1-1	
<b>Millwall</b> .....0	
HT 0-2	
<b>Rochdale</b> .....3	
Henderson 30 pen	
McDermott 34	
Lancashire 64	
HT 2-1	
<b>Scunthorpe</b> .....0	
HT 0-0	
<b>Shrewsbury</b> .....0	
HT 0-1	

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Burton Albion	22	7	3	1	19	9	7	0	4	11	10	45	
Gillingham	22	8	2	1	25	11	4	3	4	17	17	41	
Coventry	22	7	4	0	25	13	4	3	4	14	10	40	
Walsall	22	5	3	2	15	10	6	3	1	20	9	39	
Wigan	22	6	3	2	15	5	4	4	3	16	15	37	
Peterboro	22	5	3	3	24	19	5	1	5	23	15	34	
Southend	21	6	2	3	14	10	3	5	2	15	13	34	
Bradford	21	4	4	2	11	9	5	3	3	12	11	34	
Sheff Utd	22	6	1	4	22	17	3	5	3	12	13	33	
Bury	22	5	4	2	18	15	4	2	5	15	19	33	
Millwall	21	5	1	5	14	16	4	3	17	15	31		
Port Vale	21	6	4	1	19	11	2	2	6	8	13	30	
Rochdale	22	6	2	3	17	12	2	4	5	11	14	30	
Swindon	22	4	2	5	17	17	4	2	5	15	18	28	
Doncaster	22	5	4	2	16	10	2	3	6	10	21	28	
Scunthorpe	22	5	1	5	8	10	3	2	6	17	19	27	
Blackpool	22	5	2	4	11	12	2	2	7	8	16	25	
Sheff Wed	22	2	2	2	14	22	0	6	11	15	21		
Shrewsbury	22	3	1	7	14	16	3	3	5	13	17	22	
Barnsley	22	3	2	6	11	13	3	1	7	17	25	21	
Oldham	21	1	3	6	11	22	1	8	12	11	20		
Crewe	22	2	3	6	11	20	3	2	6	11	17	20	
Colchester	22	3	4	4	19	20	2	1	8	14	35	20	

## Bradford

McMahon 72	
Att 6,795	
<b>Oldham</b> .....1	
Philliskirk 80	
HT 15,419	
<b>Fleetwood Town</b> .....1	
Bell 10	
Att 3,749	
<b>Gillingham</b> .....3	
Samuel 20,89	
Dack 28 pen	
HT 12,032	
<b>Colchester</b> .....1	
Porter 21	
Att 2,205	
<b>Sheff Utd</b> .....1	
Shill 50	
HT 0-0	
<b>Swindon</b> .....1	
Ajose 34	
Att 5,115	

## Ladbroke's Scottish Prem

<b>Celtic</b> .....1	<b>Motherwell</b> .....2
Bliton 49	Moult 53,59 pen
HT 0-0	
<b>Dundee</b> .....4	<b>Hamilton</b> .....0
Hemmings 5,21,26	
Stewart 19	
HT 4-0	Att 4,568
<b>Inverness CT</b> .....2	<b>Dundee Utd</b> .....4
Polworth 46	Rankin 26
Horner 90	McKay 81
HT 0-1	Att 2,981
<b>Kilmarnock</b> .....0	<b>Aberdeen</b> .....4
	McGinn 9, Rooney 35
	Hayes 46
	Logan 80
	Att 3,928
HT 0-2	
<b>Partick</b> .....1	<b>Ross Cnty</b> .....0
Davies 52 og	
HT 0-0	Att 2,762
<b>St Johnstn</b> .....0	<b>Hearts</b> .....0
HT 0-0	Att 4,780

Ladbroke's Scottish Ch'ships									
Aberdeen					St Mirren				
Alloa					Stirling Albion				
Dundee					Stirling				
Dundee Utd					Stirling				
Falkirk					Stirling				
Glasgow City					Stirling				
Glasgow Rangers					Stirling				
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Livingston.....1							Dumbarton.....0						
Pitman 15							Su						
HT 1-0													
HOME							AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A		W	D	L	F	A	
Rangers	17	8	1	0	27	5		5	1	2	20	8	
Hibernian	17	7	2	0	17	6		6	0	2	13	5	
Falkirk	17	6	1	1	14	3		4	4	1	18	12	
Raith	17	5	1	2	13	6		3	2	4	14	9	
Malton	18	3	3	2	6	7		3	1	3	13	3	
Queen Sth	18	3	3	4	12	20		3	1	4	6	6	
Dumbarton	18	3	1	5	10	18		2	2	5	8	8	
St Mirren	18	0	3	5	8	15		3	3	5	10	10	
Livingston	18	0	2	5	8	18		2	1	6	5	5	
Alloa	17	0	1	8	3	18		1	2	6	5	5	



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# Sholing Football Club

## January Fixtures

- **Wed 30 Dec Home SWLP Folland Sports**
  - Sat 2 Jan Away SWLP Moneyfields
- **Wed 6 Jan Home RCC Gosport Borough**
  - Sat 9 Jan Away SWLP Newport IoW
  - Tue 12 Jan Away SWLP Andover Town
- **Sat 16 Jan Home SWLP Lymington Town**
- **Wed 20 Jan Home SWLP Bournemouth Poppies**
  - Sat 23 Jan Away SWLP Salisbury
- **Wed 27 Jan Home SWLP Blackfield & Langley**
  - Sat 30 Jan Home SWLP Verwood Town

## Introduction about Sholing FC Youth

"Sholing FC as a FA Charter Standard Community Club we are committed 'to a raise from within' policy where players will be developed through our successful youth sections and given the opportunity to represent the Club at Senior level thus ensuring sporting activity for the local community."

We currently run two adult teams along with seventeen youth teams and support an adult ladies team since the introduction of youth football at the club Sholing FC have reaped the reward of the teams success with a plethora trophies throughout the teams this being highlighted in May 2014 with the clubs memorable victory at Wembley in the FA Vase. We also work with local business's within the community offering them workable packages to suit their needs. For further information on any aspects of Sholing FC you might be interested in please contact/email secretary@sholingfc.com

The club has been very successful in producing players through the ranks for the Reserve & Youth Teams and some have gone on to play football at a higher level. All coaching is done to a high standard, within the guidelines of the Football Association. Most of all, an emphasis is put on the enjoyment of the game and promotion of health & team spirit.

We are always looking for new players and volunteers to assist us.

We also boast a successful Mini Soccer School run on Saturday mornings with Soccer Courses available during School holidays.

If you want to get involved, contact details are below:  
for All Youth football Carly Kinsey: sholingyouth@btinternet.com  
07826 166708 or Patrick McGonigle: Patrick.mcgonigle@villeroi-boch.co.uk  
07795 368913 alternatively Mini Soccer contact Community Manager/  
Mini Soccer School - Kevin Brewster: performingports@hotmail.co.uk  
07921 903179



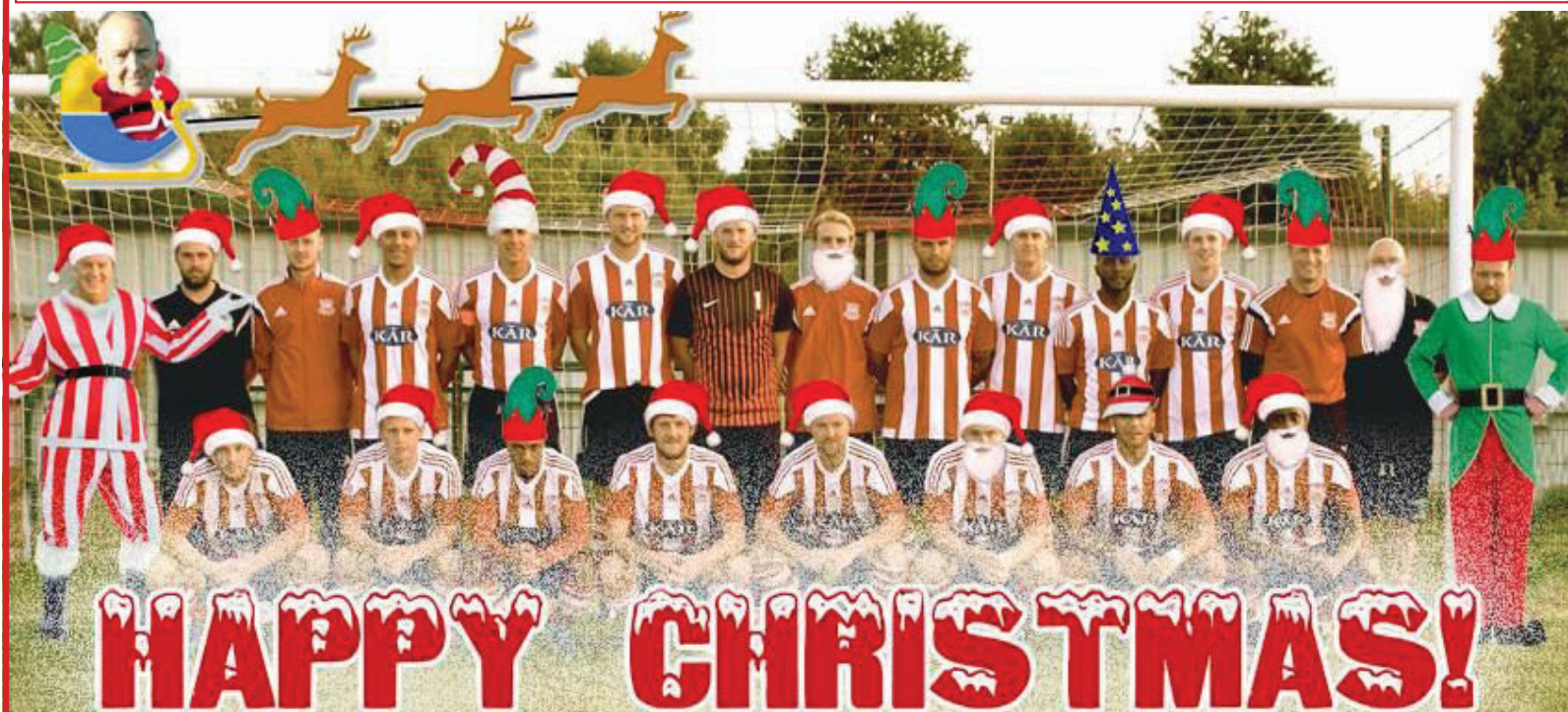
## Half-Season Tickets on Sale!

Sholing FC half season tickets are now available. There are 10 League matches remaining, starting (19th Dec), so buy & save money: Adult £42, Over 65/Student/Disabled £24, U16's £14. (Please note, £1 reduction on cup entry prices as a season ticket holder) these are available from Club Secretary Greg Dickson via email secretary@sholingfc.com or leave message on 07948 832944

## Christmas Soccer School

Perfect for parents to go off Christmas shopping, whilst the kids receive quality coaching & exercise

• **Dates: Monday 21st December - Tuesday 22nd December • Time: 9:00am -3:00pm Venue: Sholing Football Club, Silverlake Arena • Age Groups: 4-12 Years • Price: £15 a day or £25 for both days • For more info please contact Kevin Brewster at Performingports@hotmail.co.uk or 07921 903179 alternatively download booking form on website www.sholingfc.com We look forward to seeing you all!! Kind Regards, Kevin Brewster**



Back Row (L to R) : Kevin Harnett (Support Mgr), Stuart Hussey (Asst Manager), Alex Sawyer, Dan Mason, Byron Mason, Dan Miller, Ryan Gosney, Rory Anderson, Pete Castle, Dean Faithfull, Lewis Kelly, Owen Roundell, Lee Webber (Keeper coach), Terry Miller (Kit Man), Darren Burdell (Coach)

Front Row (L to R) : Jack Smith, Jamie Bulpitt, Marvin McLean, James Davis, Kevin Brewster, Jack Shiner, Barry Mason, Tobi Adekunle

Not Pictured : Dave Diaper (Manager), Jordan Brooks, Dan Dove, Mike Spinney, Sam Olaofe, Tasha Bowers (Physio)

